

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
10th December 2014

Growth Fund 2015-16
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the 2015-16 Growth Fund requirement and to seek their approval to fund this from the School's block budget.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Slough Borough Council recommends 2 options for the School Forum to choose from please see appendix A. Option 1. Is to top slice the 15-16 School block at AWPU rate like last year which will result in a £850,000 requirement from the School block. Option 2 is to top slice the School block at 66% of the AWPU rate which will result in a £450,000 requirement. Both figures are significantly lower than last year top slice of £1,500,000 and both have a contingency for 4 new classes. The main reason for the deduction is our 14-15 claim from EFA for Academies growth April to August.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Slough continues to have an increasing pupil population alongside a significant growth in numbers already working through the primary sector therefore the growth fund should be reviewed in light of future pressures. Option 1 keep it at the existing rates. Option 2 tries to identify the likely cost of a new class and propose to fund the growth fund on that basis.

The main additional costs of an additional class are the associated staffing costs. The costs of a teacher on the top of the main scale, £33k, and a teaching assistant, £14k, plus on costs (additional 33%) amounts to £62,510 per annum. This cost divide by 7/12 (September to March 2016) equates to approximately 66% of the primary AWPU. There are other areas of school expenditure that are paid for from the AWPU that do not necessarily increase at the same time as a school admits more children and for these the lag between pupil admission and pupil census , whilst not ideal, is more manageable.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Only new classes that have formally been approved by School organisation Group (SOG) will be funded from the Growth fund.
- 5.2 The DFE allows the local authority to have a Growth fund for children that start a new class after the October census (hence not funded). These new classes are for September 2015 intake.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 None.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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