

Open Report



City of
Stoke-on-Trent

Schools' Forum

15 January 2019

Growth Fund 2019-20

Report of	Section 151 Officer
	Director of Children and Family Services
Report Author	Andrew Brindley – Senior Business Partner – Schools Jen Lomas - Assistant Director Learning Services
Type of Decision	Budget and Policy Framework
Wards Affected	All Wards
Stronger Together Priorities and how they are applicable:	
Support our residents to fulfil their potential	
<i>To support the strategic objective of supporting our schools to deliver a step change in educational attainment so that every young person has access to a school rated 'good' or better.</i>	

1.0 Reason and Purpose of Report:

1.1	To provide Forum members with an update on how growth funding was allocated in 2018-19.
1.2	To obtain approval to maintain the growth fund at £532,160 and to continue with the current growth funding criteria and methodology.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1	That the Schools' Forum notes the content of the report and approves the amount and proposals relating to the operation of the growth fund for 2019-20 onwards.
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3.0 Summary of Main Points:

3.1	Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block allocation. For 2019-20 growth fund has been allocated to local authorities using a new formulaic method based on lagged growth data instead of a historic basis .
3.2	For 2019-20 growth funding, within the schools block, totals £1,533,870 (historic basis £532,160).
3.3	As it is within the schools block, a movement of funding from the schools formula into the growth fund would not be treated as a transfer between blocks.
3.4	The growth fund can only be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.• support additional classes to meet the infant class size regulation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet the costs of new schools.
3.5	<p>The growth fund may not be used to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools in financial difficulty (any such support for maintained schools should be provided from a de-delegated contingency). • general growth due to popularity (which is managed through lagged funding).
3.6	<p>In accordance with Department for Education (DfE) guidance local authorities are required to produce a criteria on which growth funding is to be allocated. It should provide a transparent and consistent basis for the allocation of funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid.</p>
3.7	<p>The local authority is also required to consult the Schools' Forum and gain agreement on the total sum to be top-sliced and the criteria used to allocate funding.</p>
3.8	<p>Any funds remaining at the end of the financial year must be added to the following year's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) but may be earmarked for the same purpose.</p>
3.9	<p>Growth Fund 2018-19 The growth fund for 2018-19 was set at £532,160.</p>
3.10	<p>The agreed criteria used to allocate funding consisted of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allocation based on basic need only. • applicable to schools where the local authority have officially agreed a change in PAN. • Funding is for pupils in Reception (Year 3 for Junior schools)/Year 7, above the original PAN up to and including the new PAN, based on the change in pupil numbers between October Censuses. • Anything above the new PAN is classified as general growth. • Funding will continue year on year until the PAN change has filtered through all year groups. • Funding for a bulge class will be a one off payment based on the agreed number of pupils in the bulge class. • Primary schools AWPU £2,747 per pupil, Secondary schools KS3 AWPU £3,863 per pupil multiplied by 7/12 representing the period September to March which is not funded within the school's budget share.
3.11	<p>In accordance with DfE guidance where growth funding is payable to academies, the local authority is required to fund the increase for the period from the additional September intake through until the following August. The local authority should enter the cost of growth funding for the April – August period on the recoupment tab of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) so that the recoupment calculation can be adjusted accordingly.</p>
3.12	<p>Based on the above criteria the actual growth spend was £348,182, an underspend of £183,978.</p>
3.13	<p>Growth Funding 2019-20 The local authority will maintain the growth funding level at £532,160 for 2019-20.</p>
3.14	<p>The local authority will also continue to use the criteria used in 2018-19 to allocate growth funding because, in accordance with DfE guidance, it contains clear objective trigger points for qualification and a clear formula for calculating allocations.</p>

Technical Appendix:

List of Background papers/sources of information used for this report:
ESFA: Schools revenue funding 2019 to 2020 Operational Guide December 2018. ESFA: School Revenue Funding Settlement 2019 to 2020. LA: Previous Schools' Forum Reports & Minutes relating to School Funding Reform & School Budgets.
List the appendices included as part of this report:
None

Implications taken into consideration in this report *(Please list as separate appendix if required):*

Financial and Commercial:
The growth funding will remain at £532,160 for 2019-20.
Legal:
As set out by the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.
Human Resources:
N/A
Public Health and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012:
N/A
Equality Impact or Environmental Impact Assessments:
N/A
Key Risks:
If Schools' Forum do not confirm the growth fund amount there will be risk on the amount of funding paid out to schools for growth who will need to mitigate the risk by robust budget plans etc.

The following section must be completed for Executive Decisions i.e. Cabinet *

Options Considered:	
1.	N/A

* In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012