

Schools Funding Forum 21st January 2016

ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

Pupil Growth Contingency

Report Author:

**David Allen – Strategic Finance
Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This report is for the Schools Funding Forum to agree the funding to be allocated for pupil growth in the secondary sector from the centrally held Pupil Growth Contingency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum considers the formula for funding growth in the secondary sector and whether this will require an amendment to the current arrangements.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

The current arrangement for funding growth is at Appendix A. This follows the Operational Guidance issued by EFA and was agreed by the Schools Funding Forum at the meeting held on 13 July 2013.

The increase in pupil numbers in Havering has so far been contained within the primary sector but from the academic year 2016/17 will require an increase in the capacity of some secondary schools in year 7.

2. Possible funding model

The more funding that is allocated for pupil growth through the pupil growth contingency, the larger the top slice from the DSG needs to be. This will have a direct impact on the funding that is available for distribution to schools through the funding formula.

Additional funding should be allocated only when additional costs have to be incurred in a school to meet the needs of the extra pupil numbers. It could be argued that up to a limit, additional pupils can be absorbed into existing classes with no additional costs being incurred but where this impacts on recommended group sizes in subject areas such as science and technology it is likely that additional staff will need to be employed.

The primary sector model funds planned growth to a maximum of 28 pupils at 90% of AWPU. The minimum growth funded is for half of a class (14 pupils) where an additional class is required (generally this is where a 1½ f.e. school increases to 2 f.e.)

If this model were to be used for the secondary sector, planned growth would be funded above 14 pupils and to a maximum of 28 but at 85% of AWPU e.g.

	Current PAN	Revised PAN	Increase	Funded	£4,542 @ 85% £3,861
School A	172	180	8	No	
School B	186	210	14	No	
School C	192	210	18	Yes	£69,492
School D	220	240	20	Yes	£77,214

These figures are shown as full year allocations which would be the amounts received by academies. Maintained schools would receive 7/12 of these amounts. This is because of the difference in the financial years between maintained schools and academies. 5/12 of the costs would be recouped by the LA from the EFA so in all cases the cost to the DSG would be 7/12.

This funding is allocated only when arising from requests from the LA to increase capacity to meet basic need.