



Schools Funding Forum 22nd September 2016 ITEM 10

Subject Heading:

Pupil Growth Fund

Report Author:

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Manager**

Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

This report is for the Schools Funding Forum to agree the funding to be held centrally for pupil growth for 2017-18 including the formula to allocate funding to support secondary schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum agrees to:

- i) an increase in the pupil growth fund in 2017-18 of an amount to be decided; and
- ii) an amendment to the current arrangements for funding growth in the secondary sector

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

The increase in pupil numbers in Havering, other than temporary increases to secondary PANs, has so far been contained within the primary sector but from the academic year 2017/18 will require an increase in the capacity of some secondary schools starting from year 7.

The budget retained centrally in 2016-17 is £2.7m for growth in the primary sector and is likely to continue to be required in 2017-18. An additional amount therefore needs to be agreed for the secondary sector.

2. Proposals

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 could 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.

There are a number of options as set out below. These are based on a funding rate of KS3 AWPU x 85% reflecting the proportion of the AWPU that is relevant to class based costs. AWPU's increased significantly from 2013-14 when other factors and grants were absorbed into the AWPU value.

Option A

Allocate £3,861 (KS3 AWPU x 85%) per pupil for all increases in PAN

On the basis of the anticipated need for 76 additional places in Year 7 this would allocate £293,413 to 4 schools of which £122,267 would be recouped from the EFA. The increase to the DSG would therefore be £171,158.

Option B

Allocate £3,861 (KS3 AWPU x 85%) per pupil for all increases in PAN less 1 pupil for each form of entry. The rationale for this is that each teaching group could absorb 1 additional pupil without the need for additional resources.

On the basis of the anticipated need for 76 additional places in Year 7 this would allocate £189,174 to 4 schools of which £78,823 would be recouped from the EFA. The increase to the DSG would therefore be £110,352.

Option C

The above options could be applied only where increases to PAN are above 15 pupils.