

## SCHOOLS FORUM

### 2018/19 Growth Fund Criteria Report December 2017

#### 1 **Purpose of the Report**

This report is to ask the Schools Forum to support the Council's proposal to "topslice" the school block budget by £800k in order to fund the 2018/19 growth fund which exists to fund the Council statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in Wokingham.

This is a significant reduction on the 2017/18 "topslice" of £1,300k, increasing the school block allocation to schools by £500k in comparison to the current year.

#### 2 **Recommendations**

The Schools Forum is asked to approve the proposal.

#### 3 **Background**

Growth funding is built into local authorities' school block national funding formula allocation, and has been calculated based on the new criteria agreed at the October 2017 School Forum.

As it's 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. The Schools Forum does however still need to agree the total growth fund.

The growth fund can only be used only to:

- support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
- meet the costs of new schools

Local authorities are responsible for funding these growth needs for all schools in their area, for new and existing maintained schools and academies. Local authorities should fund all schools on the same criteria.

The costs of new schools will include the lead-in costs, for example to fund the appointment of staff and the purchase of any goods or services necessary in order to admit pupils.

This will also include post start-up and diseconomy of scale costs. These pre and post start-up costs should be provided for academies where they are created to meet basic need.

#### **4 Suggested Action**

The School's Forum are requested to approve the estimated funding requirements for 2018/19 of £800k please see Appendix A and to note the estimated requirement for 2019/20 which is detailed in Appendix B.

#### **5 Supporting information**

Further information can be found on the DfE website, Schools Revenue Funding Arrangement 2018 to 2019 Guide.

#### **6 Financial Summary**

Please see the following appendices for detail:

Appendix A – Estimated funding required in 2018/19.

Appendix B – Estimated funding required in 2019/20.

**Piers Brunning**

**Senior Specialist (People and Place)**

**December 2017**

**Coral Miller**

**Interim Schools Finance Manager**

**December 2017**

### 2018-19 CM Growth fund analysis under new scheme

[illegible]

## Table B

[illegible][illegible]

Appendix B

2019-20 CM Growth fund analysis under new scheme
