

# Agenda Item 18.1

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| <b>TITLE</b>                | <b>Matters Arising Update</b>                |
| <b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b> | Schools Forum on 12 January 2022             |
| <b>WARD</b>                 | None Specific;                               |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER</b>         | Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson |

## OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

This report forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum are asked to note the update on matters arising.

## SUMMARY OF REPORT

### Growth Fund & Falling Rolls

At present, funding is allocated to local authorities through the growth factor, which local authorities are expected to distribute to schools that are growing to meet basic need. Basic need is additional demand for school places due to population growth or net migration. The current arrangements have led to the adoption of a wide range of different local criteria to allocate growth funding. Also, funding allocated to local authorities through the growth factor is not necessarily passed on in full for this purpose. Moving to a hard National Funding Formula allows a new, consistent, and fair approach to growth funding.

Falling rolls funding also provides specific schools with additional revenue funding where there is a short-term fall in pupil numbers. This funding has only ever been available to schools judged to be Good or Outstanding. As with growth funding, LAs currently have a large degree of discretion in how they allocate falling rolls funding to schools, and some LAs, like Wokingham, do not provide this funding at all. The hard NFF provides an opportunity to make the allocation of falling rolls funding consistent and fair across all eligible schools.

### Proposed changes to falling rolls funding:

- Local authorities inform the ESFA which schools are forecast to see a significant decrease to their number on roll in the coming year and provide data to demonstrate that their spare capacity is likely to be needed within the next 3 years.
- Funding will only be provided where schools had already experienced at least one year's decrease to their number on roll, in addition to the forecast decrease in the coming year. Schools should otherwise adjust budgets using the planning time afforded by the lagged system.
- Continuing to provide this funding to schools with a Good or Outstanding grade at their most recent Ofsted inspection.

## Secondary School Admission Numbers

| School             | Preferences In borough | Preferences Out of borough | Total Preferences | Total 1st Preference | Total 2 <sup>nd</sup> Preference |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bohunt             | 693                    | 55                         | 748               | 281                  | 203                              |
| Maiden Erlegh      | 773                    | 262                        | 1035              | 439                  | 265                              |
| Oakbank            | 120                    | 69                         | 189               | 96                   | 38                               |
| St Crispins        | 666                    | 74                         | 740               | 200                  | 280                              |
| Bulmershe          | 596                    | 225                        | 821               | 235                  | 215                              |
| Emmbrook           | 735                    | 21                         | 756               | 176                  | 243                              |
| Forest (Boys Only) | 289                    | 37                         | 326               | 87                   | 77                               |
| Holt (Girls Only)  | 664                    | 62                         | 726               | 311                  | 229                              |
| The Piggott        | 392                    | 110                        | 502               | 223                  | 133                              |
| Waingels           | 520                    | 40                         | 560               | 214                  | 182                              |