

# DARLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

ITEM NO 4

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## GROWTH FUND 2018/19

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### Purpose of Report

1. To provide clarity to Schools Forum regarding the growth fund for 2018/19.

### Background

2. Schools Forum agreed the growth fund criteria and allocation for 2018/19 at their January meeting, as per paragraphs 3 i to xi below.

### Growth Fund

3. It is proposed that the growth fund will operate in 2018/19 in a very similar manner as to that agreed by Forum for 2017/18. However in line with the previous decisions regarding growth a slight amendment is required in order to clarify how funding is calculated. Bullet points iii) and iv) below are revised to take account of this. The criteria for accessing the fund, is therefore proposed to operate in 2018/19 as follows,
  - i. Schools/Academies will only be able access the fund where they have had an increase in their PAN at the request of the Local Authority to meet a lack of available space in the local area as part of the planned changes covered in the SOP.
  - ii. The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased places on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN.
  - iii. For agreed growth in one year group, the additional number of places will be determined from the number of pupils on roll on the autumn census taking up a place in the additional class(s).
  - iv. For agreed growth across a number of year groups, the additional number of places will be determined by comparing the number of pupils on the roll at the start of the autumn term in comparison to the number of pupils funded in the individual school budget share (i.e. the last October census).
  - v. All places are funded once the increase in the pupil admissions (in line with the PAN) reaches 10 places
  - vi. The amount to be funded per a pupil will be based on the “Basic Entitlement Funding” (AWPU) for the age group of the pupil.
  - vii. Funding will be made for each term within that financial year, the school/academy has not received funding for this growth in places. (i.e. not funded within their existing school budget share).

- viii. It is proposed that any increases in admissions that fully meet the agreed criteria are funded automatically, rather than to be considered by School Forum.
  - ix. It is proposed that where a growth fund application requires a different approach, that these applications are presented to Forum with additional information in order that a separate decision can be made concerning that's schools access to the growth fund.
  - x. Where there is a dispute over the funding amount, this will be presented to Forum for a final decision.
  - xi. Schools Forum will be presented with updates on the spend against budget in year to allow budget monitoring and to inform for future years growth fund budget builds.
4. To clarify how funding is calculated in schools where growth is across a number of year groups it is necessary to amend the wording at iv) to read as follows,

For agreed growth across a number of year groups, the additional number of places will be determined by comparing the number of pupils on the roll at the census for each term in comparison to the number of pupils funded in the individual school budget share (i.e. the last October census).

### **Recommendations**

5. That Forum agrees the clarification of the wording of the growth fund 2018/19.

**Brett Nielsen  
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