

**West Northants Schools Forum: 19 October 2021**  
**Agenda Item 7a**  
**Growth Fund Policy and Weighted Numbers 2022-23**

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The report is to update West Northamptonshire Schools Forum of the proposed rolling forward of the Growth Fund Policy from NCC and the pupil number adjustments for new and growing schools to be included in the schools budgets for 2022-23.

**2 Background**

2.1 Within the DSG funding allocation for the Schools Block is an allocation for growth. In 2021-22 this is £2.54m. The LA estimate this will be £1.9m for 2022-23 (TBC December 2021). This approach ensures new schools have sufficient funding to open the required new classes needed in year.

2.2 It is the Council’s responsibility to propose suitable funding and criteria for the growth fund and it is Schools Forum’s responsibility for setting the Growth Fund budget and policy. See extract below from the [‘Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities’](#) document

Function	Local Authority	Schools Forum	DfE Role
Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy</li> </ul>	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

2.2 The growth fund is applied in two ways;

- weighted numbers added into the funding formula budget or;
- from the Growth Fund during the year.

2.3 Both methods are applied to Maintained and Academy Primary, Secondary and All-through Schools, in the same way. LAs do require Schools Forum agreement to add these increases in pupil numbers into the schools formula budget and we will be asking for Forum members to vote on this in December's Forum.

2.4 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has applied weighted numbers in the funding formula to new schools, only where year groups are not already occupied for 2021-22 and propose to keep this policy the same going forward for 2022-23.

### **3 Proposed Pupil Number Adjustments**

3.1 New Year Groups (for Forum Approval):

- Radstone Fields, Brackley +30 - year 5
- Monksmoor, Daventry +30 - year 3
- Pineham Barns +30 - year 6
- Wootton Hall +60 - year 5
- Northampton International +60 - year 5
- Marie Weller, Towcester +30 - year 1
- Buckton Fields Primary +60 – year 1

### **4 School Growth Beyond 2022-23**

4.1 New Free Schools:

- Daventry Secondary – 6FE/1100 places total – Sept 2023
- Moulton area Secondary – 8FE/1500 places total – Sept 2023
- Northampton area Secondary – 6FE/900 places total – Sept 24/25 - TBC

All dates noted above are TBC by the DfE and are subject to the Secretary of State entering into a funding agreement with the Academy Trust.

4.2 There are currently no non-free schools planned for WNC.

### **5 Proposed Policy**

5.1 We propose to continue the current policy and criteria for the growth fund for West Northamptonshire Council with no change to funding rates. Funding rates were last updated for 2021-22 budgets. The policy is as follows:

5.2 Where schools are requested to increase their pupil admission number (PAN) by the local authority by 15 or more pupils, or where a new school is being established by the authority, the full pupil/class increase will be taken into account in determining the funding.

5.3 The allocations, which apply to all maintained schools and academies, will be based on the following criteria;

5.4 The Council Admissions and School Place Planning Manager will:

- confirm with the school if the lower (15 pupil increase) or higher (30 pupil increase) reimbursements rate will be utilised and
- confirm if classroom support of a learning support assistant (LSA) will be funded
- confirm if an allocation for consumables is required,
- Funding will be issued for the period from the intake of pupils to the subsequent issue of the budget where the pupils are then included in the base budget.
- This funding is calculated using Pupil Census data or schools admissions data. Where school admission data is used to calculate the increase in pupil numbers this will subsequently be verified by the following Pupil Census data and adjusted up or down as applicable.

5.5 The level of funding is detailed in Table 1 below:

<b>Primary Growth Fund Element</b>	<b>Annual Rates</b>	<b>5/12ths Apr to Aug</b>	<b>7/12ths Sept to Mar</b>
Classroom Support (15 pupil increase"	14,194	5,914	8,280
Teacher	41,650	17,354	24,296
LSA	12.115	5,048	7,067
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,765</b>	<b>22,402</b>	<b>31,363</b>
Consumables (Max per 30 pupils)	1,080	450	630

<b>Secondary Growth Fund Element</b>	<b>Annual Rates</b>	<b>5/12ths Apr to Aug</b>	<b>7/12ths Sept to Mar</b>
Teacher	52,587	21,911	30,676
LSA	26,752	11,147	15,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,339</b>	<b>33,058</b>	<b>42,281</b>
Consumables (Max per 30 pupils)	3,240	1,350	1,890

## **6 Growth Fund Budget to be agreed by Schools Forum**

6.1 WNC propose to include the following within the schools budget consultation, with the proposed new schools and increases in classes to cope with increasing pupil numbers:

- The forecast expenditure required for 2022-23 is £1.51m

- Expected refund of recoupment for amount paid to academies for period April 2022 to August 2022 is £0.52m
- Budget requirement for commitments for 2022-23 is therefore £0.99m. See table 2 below for the schools due to receive additional classes of pupils in-year for 2022-23.
- Any surplus within the schools block, after the national funding formula has been applied to schools is proposed to be held in the growth fund to fund in year uncommitted growth and if unused, to cover high needs overspends.

Table 2: Committed use of the growth fund in 2022-23

Phase	WNC School	Growth Funded (£)
Sec	Abbeyfield School	995,508
	Campion School	
	Duston School	
	Elizabeth Woodville School	
	Kingsthorpe College	
	Malcolm Arnold Academy	
	Northampton Academy	
	Northampton International Academy	
	Northampton School for Girls	
	Thomas Becket Catholic School	
	Wootton Park School	
	Req for temp bulge capacity from Sept 2022	
Pri	Denton Primary	431,321
	Duston School (Primary Phase)	
	Hardingstone Academy	
	Lings Primary	
	Moulton Primary	
	Monksmoor Primary	
	Overstone Primary	
	Pineham Barns Primary	
	Radstone Primary	
	Road Primary	
	Marie Weller Primary	

## 7 Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

## **8 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

8.1 Schools Forum consider and support the proposed growth fund for inclusion in the Schools Funding Consultation.

## **9 Next Steps**

9.1 Consultation with schools will be held for a period of six weeks between 20 October-30 November 2021 inclusive

9.2 The consultation feedback will be shared with School Forum at the December 2021 meeting where a vote will be required.

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