

## Schools Forum

12 January 2023

### Pupil Growth Fund 2023/24

This report relates to all representatives

#### Recommendations

Funding from the Schools Block DSG is allocated to the Pupil Growth Fund to support the requirements outlined in this report:

- a. Proposed revision to the pupil growth funding criteria.
- b. Estimated growth funding required for 2023/24 to support pupil growth in existing provision and the opening of new provision.
- c. Where there is insufficient funding to support allocations described in this report, the level of protection funding for schools will be scaled back accordingly.

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Warwickshire Education Strategy (2018-2023) sets out the County Council's aspirations and priorities for Education in Warwickshire. Within this strategy Priority WE3 aims to ensure all learners enjoy a high-quality learning experience.
- 1.2. In this context, the [Education Sufficiency Strategy \(2018-2023\)](#) accompanied by the [Annual Sufficiency Update](#) aims to help schools, parents, council officers, local partners and stakeholders understand how Warwickshire County Council plans for and anticipates the growth in demand for places ensuring that all children and young people thrive in sustainably good or outstanding schools and settings throughout their education, wherever they live in Warwickshire.
- 1.3. The Local Authority is responsible for providing sufficient school places.
- 1.4. Warwickshire is experiencing significant growth within many parts of the county, with larger primary cohorts now entering secondary provision and large scale housing development building out and proposed to continue to build out across the county over the next 15 years and beyond. As development progresses across the county there will be the need for the delivery of new provision and the expansion of existing provision during the next 5 years and effective planning for further new provision beyond that period. One new all-through

school and one primary school are due to open September 2023 and a further new primary school is proposed to open in September 2024.

- 1.5. The growth fund can be used to support schools which are required to provide extra pre-16 places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including the pre-opening and post opening costs of new schools and reorganisation costs.
- 1.6. Funding for Growth is allocated to the Local Authority separately within the National Funding Formula and calculated based on actual pupil growth between the annual October censuses. Allocations for 2023-24 were announced on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and have been based on the increases between October 2022 and 2021 pupil census data. The finalised available amount to support pupil growth is £3.5 million.
- 1.7. For 2022/23 the estimated requirements were £2.328 million. The final expenditure is forecast to be circa £2.328 million.

## **2. Current criteria in Warwickshire for administering Growth Funding**

### **2.1. Primary School (Reception to Year 6)**

- 2.1.1. When a primary school agrees to admit an additional class at the request of the LA, they are paid £41,317 for each new class to cover the seven month period before these pupils begin to be funded through the formula based on the October Census. For bulge classes this would be a one-off payment, while for expansions the payment would be made for a maximum of seven years depending on the number of new classes opened. In terms of academies, which are funded on academic year, there is a 12-month period before funding for the additional class is received, therefore an additional £23,798 is paid to academies in April and recouped from the ESFA by the LA.
- 2.1.2. Primary schools that are in the process of expansion, or those that have admitted a bulge class at the request of the LA, also receive protection funding for up to seven years from when an additional class is opened (inclusive of the first year of funding). For the first year of funding, the additional protection funding is based on the primary basic entitlement AWPU figure (£3,395 for 2023/24) and is for 5/12 of the year, as the school would have already received the Pupil Growth Funds to support with first 7/12 of the year<sup>1</sup>. In second and subsequent years of funding, if the class has 25 pupils or fewer, the school is eligible to receive AWPU for the difference up to 25 pupils. Where applicable, this protection funding can also be applied to new free schools opened via the LA presumption route or through the Central Government Free School Programme.
- 2.1.3. The growth fund can also provide support for those schools undergoing reorganisation, for example, an extension of the age range. Costs incurred can vary considerably, and in order

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<sup>1</sup> Protection funding in the first year not applicable to academies that received full 12 month growth funding payment

to ensure an equitable yet flexible approach, each re-organisation will be assessed and the appropriate method and level of funding agreed follow consultation with the relevant officers.

- 2.1.4. **Proposed uplift to primary growth funding payment:** The LA have reviewed the staffing element of the growth funding in light of the recent pay award and feedback from primary schools regarding the level of teaching assistant hours included in the current calculation. The number of TA hours has been increased to 1FTE from 0.5FTE acknowledging that a new class, particularly at Reception will have at least 1 FTE teaching assistant.
- 2.1.5. In addition, a 5% uplift has been added to the teacher salary and the teaching assistant salary. Therefore, when a primary school agrees to admit an additional class at the request of the LA they would be paid £51,546 for each new class to cover the seven month period before these pupils begin to be funded through the formula based on the October Census. For academies, which are funded on academic year, an additional £31,105 is paid in April and recouped from the ESFA by the LA.
- 2.2. **Secondary School (Year 7 to Year 11)**
- 2.2.1. When a secondary school agrees to admit an additional form of entry at the request of the LA they are paid £38,611 for the seven month period before these pupils begin to be funded through the formula based on the October Census. For bulge classes, this would be a one-off payment, while for expansions the payment would be made for a maximum of five years. For academies, which are funded on academic year, an additional £25,436 is paid to academies in April and recouped from the ESFA by the LA.
- 2.2.2. **Proposed uplift to secondary growth funding payment:** As a result of the recent pay award a 5% uplift has been added to the teacher salary and the teaching assistant salary. It is also proposed to increase the resource element from £3000 to £5000 and increase the teaching assistant time from 0.5FTE to 1.0FTE.
- 2.2.3. Therefore, when a secondary school agrees to admit an additional class at the request of the LA they would be paid £51,655 for each new class to cover the seven month period before these pupils begin to be funded through the formula based on the October Census. For academies, which are funded on academic year, an additional £33,325 is paid in April and recouped from the ESFA by the LA.
- 2.2.4. **Proposed introduction of protection funding: Only payable if the school maintains the agreed additional number of places.** Following on from the initial growth funding in the first year, in second and subsequent years, protection funding will be paid up to a maximum of 20 pupils per year group. For example, where an additional 30 places are being made available in a year group (on top of the existing PAN), protection funding will be paid on 20 pupils – a school with a PAN of 180 makes places available up to 210 places; protection funding will be provided up to 200 pupils. The protection funding will be based on the

Secondary basic entitlement AWPU (23/24 £4,780) and based on the October 2023 Census figure.

### 3. School Pre-Opening and Post Opening Funding

3.1. Under the free school presumption local authorities are required to meet the capital costs of providing the new school and the revenue costs of opening the new provision.

3.2. In providing the revenue support, provision must be made in the LA's growth funds to finance pre-opening development costs and post-opening funding to reflect the additional costs of establishing and operating a new school during the first few years when pupil-led revenue funding is not sufficient to cover the full running costs.

#### 3.3. Pre-Opening Funding (Project Development Grant) – No changes are proposed

3.3.1. The pre-opening funding is intended to cover revenue costs up to the opening of the school. This can include project management, staff recruitment, salary costs and office and administration costs. The grant is paid in three instalments during the year prior to opening.

3.3.2. The current pre-opening funding grant follows a similar funding level to the project development grant given to new schools opened through the Central Government Free School Programme.

3.3.3. The Project Development Grant proposed by WCC breaks down as follows:

Primary £195,000 (£125,000 if the trust is opening more than one school in an academic year)

Secondary and all-through £275,000 (£175,000 if the trust is opening more than one school in an academic year)

3.3.4. An ICT grant would also be provided to fund the ICT equipment and expenditure not covered by the Capital Build. A grant of up to £50,000 is proposed for Primary Schools and up to £100,000 for a Secondary School.

3.3.5. It should be noted that all LA presumption schools also receive a £25,000 project development grant from the Department for Education.

#### 3.4. Post Opening Funding (New Mainstream Free School) – No changes are proposed

3.4.1 The current approach follows a similar format to the post opening grant paid by the DfE to free schools opened through the Central Government Free School Programme. There are two elements to the post-opening grant: non-staffing resources paid on a per pupil basis and a leadership grant.

3.4.2 The Resources element: Paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll. It is paid at the following rates:

- £250 for each new mainstream pupil in the primary phase (R to 6)
- £500 for each new mainstream pupil in the secondary and 16 to 19 phases (7 to 13)

3.4.3 The Leadership element: Paid annually based on the number of year groups that the school will ultimately have that do not yet have pupils. The amount paid to mainstream schools depends on how many year groups are empty.

Table 1: Leadership element of post opening grant

Phase	Number of empty year groups						Max
	6+	5	4	3	2	1	
Primary	£80,500	£67,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£13,500	£283,000
Secondary			£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£31,000	£312,000
All Through	£125,000	£93,500	£62,500	£54,000	£40,500	£27,000	£402,500

NB. Leadership element not affected by school size or whether there is a sixth form

Table 2: Total Cost\*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Max. Total
Primary (1FE)	£88,000	£75,000	£61,500	£48,000	£34,500	£21,000	£7,500	£335,500
Secondary 7 to 11 (6FE)	£215,000	£183,500	£152,500	£121,000	£90,000	-	-	£762,000
All Through 11-16 (1FE primary & 6FE Secondary)	£222,500	£222,500	£222,500	£125,000	£97,500	£7,500	£7,500	£905,000

\*Maximum cost assuming school growing 1 year group at a time. Cost would be subject to change depending on the timing of year groups being opened. Funding will be adjusted over the opening period in line with the maximum total paid

## 4. Growth Funding requirements for 2023/24

4.1 For 2023/24 the growth funding requirements to support pupil growth in primary and secondary provision and to support the opening of new provision is estimated at £3,509,990 million (including recoupable amounts); of which:

- £3.064 million is required to support pupil growth in line with the growth funding criteria outlined in this report.
- £0.446 million is required to support the pre-opening and post opening of new LA presumption schools
- The new rates will be applicable from September 2023

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