

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCHOOLS’ FORUM

1.	Meeting:	Rotherham Schools’ Forum
2.	Date:	15 th January 2016
3.	Title:	Contingency for Pupil Growth funding allocations
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People’s Services

5. Summary

Pupil numbers are increasing within the Borough creating a shortage of available places in certain areas. This increasing pressure on school places means it is necessary to increase the number of school places available to meet current and projected demand. This report outlines the transitional funding (**7/12 funding for maintained Schools and 12/12 funding for Academies**) required to support the creation of additional school places in the Borough until school census funding generates the income for new pupils.

6. Recommendation:

- It is recommended that the 2016/17 allocations specified be approved and funded from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block. A further report will be submitted in due course to confirm requests for transitional funding for 2017/18.

7. Proposals and Details

Pupil numbers are increasing in the Borough and there is increasing pressure on schools making it necessary to increase the number of places available in certain areas of the Borough. The impact on children and families can be significant where siblings are separated across more than one school; parents are reluctant to take up offers of a school place due to logistical and financial constraints around travel; and a potentially negative impact on one or more children's attendance, participation and achievement of wider educational outcomes.

Using the previously agreed formula for funding allocations, it is recommended that the following allocations are approved by Schools Forum from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block:

2016/17 Academic Year Recommended Allocations

Aston Hall (4 of 4)	£ 32,711 based on 15 pupils
Sandhill (1 of 4)	£ 56,076 based on 15 pupils
Foljambe Campus (1 of 1)	£ 56,076 based on 15 pupils
Eastwood Village (Y5)	£ 62,556 based on 30 pupils
Brinsworth Howarth (3 of 4)	£ 32,711 based on 15 pupils
Wickersley SSC (Y7-8)	£125,112 based on 60 pupils
Listerdale (3 of 4)	£ 56,076 based on 15 pupils
Brampton Ellis Primary	£ 32,711 based on 15 pupils
TOTAL	£454,028
Eastwood Village diseconomies funding	TBC once agreed by Forum

Total for allocations approved by Forum for the 2015/16 Academic Year = £469,108 (£500,000 budgeted by Forum).

8. Finance

Where schools are expanded, it is necessary to provide interim financial support to bridge the gap (between 1st September and 31st March for maintained Schools and 1st September to 31st August for Academies) due to funding arrangements. Funding is allocated to schools each year based upon numbers on roll on Census day in October of the preceding year. Additional pupils commencing at the start of a new academic year will not be on roll at that time in order to generate sufficient funding to meet additional staffing and other agreed expenditure.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Over provision at one school could influence pupil numbers at other schools. Local Authorities are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental preference.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the forward planning and provision of school places is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The expansion of schools would enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore, increase that performance indicator.

Rotherham School Improvement Mission:

- ~ All children will make at least good progress
- ~ There will be no underperforming cohorts
- ~ All teachers will deliver at least good learning
- ~ All schools will move to the next level of successful performance

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Reports to the Decision Maker in relation to:

Annual Admissions Consultations

Proposals to increase admission numbers temporarily, and to make prescribed alterations to schools

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