

BRIEFING	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	November 2019
	LEAD OFFICER:	Dean Fenton Head of Service – Access to Education Children and Young People's Services Tel: 01709 254821 Email: dean.fenton@rotherham.gov.uk
	TITLE:	Contingency for pupil growth fund

1. Background

- 1.1** Pupil numbers are increasing within the Borough as verified by the latest DfE School Capacity and Planning (SCAP) scorecard for Rotherham with a current 14% increase in Primary aged pupils (15% in 2018) and a 7% increase in Secondary aged pupils (1% in 2018) since 2010.
- 1.2** The impact on education infrastructure has been planned for by the introduction of 575 new secondary places (and 300 currently in the development / planning stage) and 1,492 Primary places created between November 2011 and September 2020.
- 1.3** There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities under the requirements of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area, within funding parameters.
- 1.4** The Local Authority receives an annual allocation of funding from the Department for Education known as the Basic Need Allocation to address infrastructure requirements as a result of in borough pupil growth.
- 1.5** Where schools are expanded, it is sometimes 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*) to support the recruitment of additional staffing required as a result of expansion. This is because 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 requirements and other agreed expenditure.
- 1.6** Using the previously agreed formula for funding allocations for new and expanding schools it is recommended that an amount of £700k be approved by Schools Forum from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block for 2020/21 to cover the expansion implications and new school pre start up implications.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** There are always risks and uncertainties when a school expansion takes place as, increasing pupil numbers in one school could impact on another schools numbers. However, pupil numbers are rising across the Borough and the trend is set to continue in to the future with the implementation of the local plan (plan to create new housing across

the borough).

3. Key Actions and Timelines

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 3.1 | Confirmation will be sought from expanding schools funded as part of basic need in relation to the creation of additional classes and the staffing implications after the 1 st late applications allocation round (mid May) following the National Offer days for primary and secondary place allocation (1 st March / 16 th April respectively). |
| 3.2 | A report will be brought to Schools Forum in June/July 2020 confirming the allocation amounts based on pupil numbers and staffing implications for establishing a new classroom. |
| 3.3 | The pre start up allocations for a new school are pre-determined as a set amount subject to the number of year groups a new school opens to. |

4. Recommendations

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is recommended that an amount of £700k be approved by Schools Forum from the Pupil Growth element within the Schools Block for 2020/21 to cover the expansion implications and new school pre start up implications.• That a further report be brought to Forum detailing the individual allocation amounts for expanding schools as outlined in 3.2 of this briefing. |
|-----|--|