5. Central Supplementary Funding Report 2025-26

Report to :	Schools Forum
Date of Meeting(s) :	16 October 2025
Report of :	Colette Dutton – Director Children and Families
Contact Officer :	Mark Rotheram – Strategic Finance Manager Kirsten Reid – Group Finance
Summary:	To provide a summary of the outcome of bids by Schools to the centrally held fund 2025/26.
Recommendation(s):	To note the information included within the report
Implications: *What are the **financial** implications?* *What are the **staffing** implications?*	 Contained within the report n/a
Risks:	n/a

Please list any appendices:

- Appendix 1 List of requests for funding

1. Introduction

1.1 Centrally retained funds are available to support the areas below

- growth
- contingency (maintained only)

Growth funding is sourced from the Schools Block and set aside for maintained schools and academies before the schools allocations for the year are calculated.

Contingency funding is sourced from the maintained schools using de-delegated funds.

1.2 To access funding individual schools had to submit a business case to the Schools Finance Team detailing the amount of funding required. Schools were also asked to submit the following documentation to support the bid.

- The detailed current year budget and 3-year forecast
- The current level of balances held by the school and usage statement
- Supporting narrative / business case

1.3 The bids were assessed by Finance and agreed in consultation with the Assistant Director of Education.

2. Growth

2.1 The guidance that governs the distribution of funds in relation to the first three areas is as follows:

2.2 A school or academy can submit a business case where it has agreed with the authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need or where a school has increased its' PAN in agreement with the authority.

2.3 The business case should set out the additional costs to the school of this extra provision. This will be cross referenced against an amount based on additional per pupil AWPU increase reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share. This is in line with the practice that many authorities adopt. There is no DfE prescribed method for funding growth.

3. Contingency

3.1 Contingency funding can be provided to maintained primaries and secondaries but only for a limited range of circumstances:

- exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meet;
- schools in financial difficulties; and
- additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.

4. Allocations

4.1 The growth fund budget is £0.384m in line with the agreement at Schools Forum in January 2025. The budget for contingency (de-delegated) is £0.299m.

4.2 The total value of received bids was £1.618m. The value of approved allocations is £0.775m. Appendix 1 provides further details, with schools not identified.

4.3 It is possible for additional requests for growth funding to be received over the year. Likewise, due to the nature of the Contingency funding, we may receive additional bids during the financial year due to unforeseen circumstances. Both budgets are already overcommitted by £90,158 in total.

Recommendations

5.1 Schools Forum to note the content of the report.