



Report to: Schools Forum
Date of Meeting(s): 7 July 2016
Subject: Growth Funding
Report of: Alan Lindsay Assistant Director Education
Contact Officer: John McDonald Strategic Finance Manager

Summary: To increase the contribution from the closed schools reserve to fund growth. To consider an increased top slice from the Dedicated Schools Grant to support future growth.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?* Detrimental impact to schools budget and outcomes if not appropriately resourced

*What are the **staffing** implications?* n/a

Risks: n/a

Please list any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
n/a	n/a

1. Introduction

1.1 Local authorities may top slice the DSG in order to create a Growth Fund to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority. The growth fund may not be used to support schools in financial difficulty. In 2016/17 Wigan allocated £0.250m to this growth fund from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) before the allocation to schools. Schools Forum also agreed to utilise the closed schools reserve £0.750m and drip feed this back over the next three years.

2. Position for 2016/17

2.1 For 2016/17 we have approved £0.647m of growth funding. Each school requested to grow/increase their PAN receives a base allocation of the average per pupil rate by the number of the increase apportioned accordingly as agreed by Forum. In some circumstances we have also funded one off expenditure to help schools with the extra numbers. This could be new IT, extra premises costs or desks etc. The funding available for growth is under considerable pressure due to the requests to increase numbers and the nature of the projects required to meet the need.

2.2 For this current financial year we propose to use a further £0.147m of the closed schools reserve to meet the extra costs. Moving forward we already have a commitment to support schools until 2020 of nearly £0.5m (Table 1). The £0.750m will need to be drawn down quicker and Forum must consider an increase to the level of contribution from the DSG in 2017/18. The information in the table does not take into account one-off expenditure nor does it take into account the full extent of the review on school place provision as reported to the Local Authority's Cabinet on 21 April.

Table 1

Growth Fund Evaluation	Additional Pupils	Committed	One off Expenditure	Total
2016/17	172	438,489	208,456	646,945
2017/18	202	488,112	-	488,112
2018/19	202	488,112	-	488,112
2019/20	202	488,112	-	488,112
		1,902,825	208,456	2,111,281

2.3 Please note that any request for extra support above the pupil rate does need to be supported by a clear business case outlined all the extra costs. We would also ask i that schools involved in this process to contact the Finance team as soon as possible to arrange a meeting to discuss.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Schools Forum to note the increased costs of funding growth
- 3.2 Schools Forum to note and consider the allocation for 2017/18 (subject to the NFF phase 2 consultation)