

Report to: Schools Forum
Date of Meeting(s): 14th May 2015
Subject: Supplementary Fund Allocation 2015/16
Report of: Kirston Nelson – Assistant Director Education
Contact Officer: John McDonald – Strategic Finance Manager

Summary: To provide details of the outcome of the bids by Schools to the Supplementary Fund 2015/16

Recommendation(s): For Schools Forum to note the contents of the report

Implications:

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

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

Risks: n/a

1. Introduction

1.1 As agreed at Schools Forum this fund is to be used to support schools in meeting local needs and to ensure schools remain sustainable in the short term and capable of meeting increased demand for places in the longer term.

1.2 In order to access this transitional funding individual schools had to submit a business case to the Assistant Director of Education detailing the amount of funding required and the how the required funding will deliver a sustainable budget. In considering an application the Assistant Director of Education took account of the following factors :

- a) The year on year budget reduction as an absolute value and as a percentage
- b) The current level of balances held by the school
- c) The demographic projections specific to the area involved
- d) The sustainability of the proposal

1.3 The fund covers the areas below and there is set criteria against the first three as per EFA guidance.

- growth
- falling rolls
- disproportionate SEN
- contingency
- redundancy

1.4 Growth

A school or academy can submit a business case where it has agreed with the authority to provide an extra class in order to meet basic need or where a school has increased its' PAN in agreement with the authority. The business case will detail the additional costs to the school of this extra provision and this will be cross referenced against an amount based on an additional per pupil AWPU increase reflecting the proportion of the year which is not funded within the school's budget share.

1.5 Falling rolls

To assist schools with falling rolls in exceptional circumstances and relating to those schools deemed good or outstanding by Ofsted. If there is a reduction in numbers between the October School Census with the previous October census that will significantly affect provision within the school. Local Planning data evidences that the reduction is only temporary. The school does not have a surplus revenue balance that can be used to fund the shortfall in the short term. Funding may be allocated up to the AWPU rate for the difference between the current year and the lower number on roll but limited.

1.6 Disproportionate SEN

The initial qualifying criteria is that a school must have a greater proportion of high needs pupils compared with numbers on the roll than the specified threshold (40% above the specified average for each sector). The proportion

above the threshold is then multiplied by £6,000 to give a potential annual allocation which would be adjusted on a termly basis for a revision to numbers. However before any allocation is approved an assessment is made of the individual circumstances pertaining to that school.

1.7 Contingency

Contingency funding can be retained centrally but only for a limited range of circumstances:

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

1.8 Redundancy

The authority has a small general fund provision to fund the cost of redundancies. These must be supported and agreed with the authority's HR team.

2. Allocations

- 2.1 There were a total of £2.442m bids against a total fund of £1.930m. The approved allocations are set out in Appendix 1 and total £1.783m. This leaves a small contingency of £146k. Further bids will be considered throughout the year under exceptional circumstances only.
- 2.2 A letter has been sent out to all schools who submitted a bid detailing the outcome.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.