

Agenda Item 4

Report to: **Schools Forum**

Date: **20 November 2020**

Title of Report: **Growth Fund / Falling Rolls Fund**

By: **Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager**

Purpose of Report: **To update Schools Forum on spend in the 2020/21 financial year and to seek approval for funding for the 2021/22 financial year.**

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is asked to approve an allocation of £1,682,300 for the 2021/22 Growth Fund.

1. Introduction

1.1 The 2020/21 Growth and Falling Rolls Funds were approved by Schools Forum on 22 November 2019.

1.2 The Growth Fund supports maintained and non-maintained mainstream schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the local authority. The fund is provided for:

- Key Stage 1 top-up: paid to schools to enable them to comply with Key Stage 1 class size legislation, which sets a maximum class size of 30 pupils with one teacher. There are a few exceptions where class sizes can exceed 30, but there is no entitlement to Growth Fund, for example, arising from admissions through the Fair Access Protocol.
- Additional classes: where the local authority has made a formal request for a school to set up one or more additional classes, or requests a permanent increase in a school's Published Admission Number.
- New school funding: when new schools open in a local authority area, they receive pre-opening funding through a formula to cover costs incurred prior to the opening and diseconomy funding to cover costs incurred while the school fills to capacity. The funding decreases year on year as more year groups in the new school are admitted.

1.3 The Falling Rolls Fund is used to support good or outstanding schools that have temporary, but significant, falling rolls, but where local planning data shows the places will be needed in the near future. It is designed to avoid the need for a school to restructure and then recruit again shortly afterwards. The funding is for maintained and non-maintained schools. The circumstances in which a payment is made from the Falling Rolls fund are:

- The school is judged to be good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (this is a mandatory requirement from the DFE).
- The number on roll has dropped by more than 5% between the October 2019 census and the October 2020 census.
- Local planning data (East Sussex County Council pupil forecasting model) predicts that the number on roll will, at October 2022, be equal to or exceed their number on roll as at October 2019.

2. Growth Fund 2020/21

2.1 Schools Forum approved a budget of £1,554,100 for the 2020/21 Growth Fund. This figure was based on estimated Key Stage 1 pupil numbers, the predicted additional classes required for the 2020/21 academic year and the number of new schools that required diseconomy funding.

2.2 In 2020/21, the numbers of schools eligible for either Key Stage 1 top-up funding, additional class funding or new schools funding were:

- 36 primary schools eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 14 primary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 2 secondary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 3 schools (primary and all-through) eligible for new schools funding.

2.3 To date, £1,164,470 of the Growth Fund budget has been spent in 2020/21, leaving a balance of £407,530 unallocated. The underspend has come about largely because fewer schools qualified for Key Stage 1 top-up funding than had been predicted last year. A summary of spend in 2020/21 is provided in **Appendix A**.

2.4 Given the size of the underspend and the recognised financial pressure schools are under, we have decided to devolve the remaining funds back to all maintained and non-maintained mainstream schools immediately. This has been calculated at a rate of £6.43 per pupil (£407,530 / 63,421 funded students in the 2020/21 funding formula). The funds will be paid to schools in November 2020.

3. Growth Fund 2021/22

3.1 The proposed allocation for 2021/22 is based on the estimated October 2020 pupil numbers and estimated Key Stage 1 numbers as at October 2021. A 10% contingency has been added to the Key Stage 1 top-up element to allow for any unforeseen changes.

3.2 Additional class funding for 2021/22 is based on the predicted need for places identified through the annual update to the pupil forecasting model, most recently updated in July 2020 and available in the recently published School Organisation Plan 2020-2024. A 10% contingency has been added to the additional class element to allow for any unanticipated pressures.

3.3 It is estimated that the following numbers of schools will be eligible for Growth Fund support in 2021/22:

- 52 primary schools potentially eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 14 primary schools potentially eligible for additional class funding
- 3 secondary schools potentially eligible for additional class funding
- 1 school (all-through) school eligible for new schools funding.

3.4 In total, the Growth Fund requirement for 2021/22 is £1,682,300.

Recommendation:

Schools Forum is recommended to approve an allocation of **£1,682,300** for the 2021/22 Growth Fund.

3.5 A breakdown of the Growth Fund calculation for 2021/22 is provided in **Appendix B**. The updated Growth Fund document for 2021/22 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

4. Falling Rolls Fund 2020/21

4.1 Rather than seek new funds in 2020/21, we carried forward £63,000 from 2019/20 as a contingency for the year. To date only one school, ARK Castledown Primary Academy, qualified for funding in 2020/21, receiving a total of £16,000. This leaves a balance of £47,000 unspent which we propose carrying forward to 2021/22.

4.2 Based on estimated pupil numbers, 0 schools will be eligible for the Falling Rolls Fund in 2021/22. The carry forward of £47,000 from 2020/21 should be sufficient as a contingency for the year. Therefore, we are not seeking any new funds from Schools Forum in 2021/22.

4.3 The updated Falling Rolls Fund document for 2021/22 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

Growth Fund Summary 2020/21

Summary of Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund 2020/21

	2020/21 approved allocations	Actual / planned expenditure	Balance remaining
KS1 top up	£831,800	£492,295	£339,505
Additional classes	£600,200	£532,175	£68,025
Dis-economy funding	£140,000	£140,000	£0
Net total (rounded)	£1,572,000	£1,164,470	£407,530

Falling Rolls	£63,000	£16,000	£47,000
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DfE	School Name	KS1 Top Up Apr20 - Aug20	KS1 Top Up Sep20 - Mar21	Additional Class Funding Apr20 - Aug20	Additional Class Funding Sep20 -	New Schools Funding	TOTAL	Falling Rolls
2050	Alfriston School		£851.00				£851.00	
2060	Hamsey Community Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
2076	Park Mead Primary School			£14,434.00	£20,608.00		£35,042.00	
2078	Plumpton Primary School	£608.00	£851.00				£1,459.00	
2082	Punnett's Town Community Primary School	£1,815.00	£2,540.00				£4,355.00	
2091	St Michael's Primary School, Withyham	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
2094	Chyngton School				£337.00		£337.00	
2099	Little Common School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
2103	Denton Community Primary School and Nursery						£0.00	
2104	Cradle Hill Community Primary School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2105	Polegate Primary School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2120	Sandown Primary School						£0.00	
2131	Tollgate Community Junior School				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2151	Bourne Primary School			£2,369.00	£3,716.00		£6,085.00	
2153	Meridian Community Primary School and Nursery			£18,010.00	£26,013.00		£44,023.00	
3003	Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School		£12,676.00				£12,676.00	
3004	Beckley Church of England Primary School		£5,919.00				£5,919.00	
3009	Burwash C of E School	£12,674.00	£17,743.00				£30,417.00	
3012	Catsfield Church of England Primary School	£608.00	£851.00				£1,459.00	
3015	Cross-in-Hand Church of England Primary School			£26,500.00	£37,500.00		£64,000.00	
3016	Crowhurst C of E Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
3018	Danehill Church of England Primary School	£5,434.00	£7,608.00				£13,042.00	
3022	East Hoathly C of E Primary School	£4,228.00	£5,919.00				£10,147.00	
3026	Fletching Church of England Primary School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
3028	Forest Row Church of England Primary School	£6,641.00	£9,297.00				£15,938.00	
3029	Frant Church of England Primary School		£5,919.00				£5,919.00	
3041	Southover C of E Primary School			£5,988.00	£8,784.00		£14,772.00	
3043	Mayfield Church of England Primary School	£9,054.00	£12,676.00				£21,730.00	
3045	Netherfield C of E Primary School		£22,811.00				£22,811.00	
3046	Ninfield Church of England Primary School		£16,054.00				£16,054.00	
3047	Northiam Church of England Primary School		£24,500.00				£24,500.00	
3049	Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
3051	St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Playden	£9,054.00	£12,676.00				£21,730.00	
3062	Stonegate Church of England Primary School	£1,815.00	£2,540.00				£4,355.00	
3076	Bodiam Church of England Primary School	£10,261.00	£14,365.00				£24,626.00	
3077	Iford & Kingston Church of England Primary School		£10,986.00				£10,986.00	
3080	Staplecross Methodist Primary School	£7,847.00	£10,986.00				£18,833.00	
3323	Framfield Church of England Primary School	£6,641.00	£9,297.00				£15,938.00	
3325	St Mark's Church of England Primary School	£3,021.00	£4,230.00				£7,251.00	
3326	St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School		£7,608.00				£7,608.00	
3327	All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School		£4,230.00				£4,230.00	
3335	Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	£12,674.00	£17,743.00				£30,417.00	
3339	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School			£7,195.00			£7,195.00	
3343	St Philip's Catholic Primary School		£851.00				£851.00	
	Maintained Schools Total	£118,939.00	£327,917.00	£74,496.00	£209,458.00	£0.00	£730,810.00	£0.00

2003	Glenleigh Park Primary Academy				£37,500.00		£37,500.00	
2008	Burfield Academy					£14,000.00	£14,000.00	
2009	High Cliff Academy			£1,502.00	£2,027.00	£14,000.00	£17,529.00	
2011	The Baird Primary Academy			£8,645.00	£13,851.00		£22,496.00	
2012	Ark Blacklands Primary Academy			£26,500.00			£26,500.00	
2021	Breakwater Academy	£1,105.00	£0.00	£14,596.00			£15,701.00	
2023	White House Primary School	£4,618.00	£10,986.00				£15,604.00	
2025	Ark Castledown Primary Academy						£0.00	£16,000.00
2026	Rye Community Primary School	£0.00	£12,676.00				£12,676.00	
3345	Annecy Catholic Primary School, Seaford	£0.00	£16,054.00				£16,054.00	
4004	Seahaven Academy				£41,800.00		£41,800.00	
4026	Beacon Academy			£60,000.00	£41,800.00		£101,800.00	
4027	Hailsham Academy Trust Primary Academy					£112,000.00	£112,000.00	
	Academy Schools Total	£5,723.00	£39,716.00	£111,243.00	£136,978.00	£140,000.00	£433,660.00	£16,000.00
	TOAL	£124,662.00	£367,633.00	£185,739.00	£346,436.00	£140,000.00	£1,164,470.00	£16,000.00

Growth Fund requirement 2021/22

	Funding required
Key Stage 1 top-up funding	£958,800
Additional class funding	£639,500
New school funding	£84,000
2021/22 allocation	£1,682,300

Falling Rolls Fund requirement 2021/22

Funding type	Funding required
Carry forward from 2020/21	£47,000
New funding requirement	£0
2021/22 allocation	£47,000