

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM

SCHOOLS GROUP:

John Constable (Chair), Peter Collins, Philip Gregory, Valerie Haffrey, Ray Hinds, Kathleen Higgins, Navroop Mehat, Angela Mellish, Carol Pearce, Kathy Perry, Jon Reekie, Jo Rockall, Jamie Rockman, Coral Snowden, Neil Sykes, Maggie Waller, Nicky Willis and Maxine Wood

OBSERVERS:

Jo Matthews, Eddie Neighbour and Councillor Martin F. Carter

LOCAL AUTHORITY:

Cate Duffy, Michael Jarrett, Johnny Kyriacou, Neil Wilcox, Susan Woodland and John Wood

DATE & TIME: TUESDAY, 14TH JULY, 2020 AT 2.30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING

REVISED PAPERS

Amended papers issued following the meeting. As discussed, revised Growth Fund Report and Appendices B, C and D.

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6. Update on Growth Allocations/Issues	(Pages 1 - 10)

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SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
14th July 2020

Growth Fund 2019-20 - Outturn
(Directorate of Children Learning and Skills)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask that Schools' Forum note the outturn for the Growth Fund 2019-20 and note the latest estimates for 2020-21 and future years.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Schools' Forum:

- 2.1 note the contents of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The prescribed methodology for calculating revenue funding for schools means that growing schools are not fully funded for the extra pupils attending the school. The reason for this shortfall in funding is due to the lag in the period from pupils starting until they appear on the School Census and funding is allocated at a later date. To support schools through this period of lag in funding while they are expanding the LA requests an annual sum of money through Schools' Forum called the "Growth Fund".

- 3.2 The methodology for qualification and allocation of the Growth Fund is reviewed and agreed by Schools' Forum on an annual basis. Schools' Forum is asked to consider the financial impact on schools of expansion and agree an affordable level of additional revenue support.

4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 A report was presented to Schools' Forum in November 2019 seeking approval for the criteria by which funding would be allocated in 2020-21. The table below briefly summarises these criteria:

Criterion	
School permanently expands at the request of the LA	The number of primary schools qualifying under this criterion is reducing each year, while more secondary schools are beginning to qualify.

School opens a bulge class at the request of the LA	One bulge class opened in 2018-19. Academies receive additional funding in the second year of a bulge class equal to the growth between October censuses.
School admits pupils above their PAN at the request of the LA	This is a 'last resort' option that may be considered when a handful of places are required and a bulge class offering 30 places would not be value for money.
New school opens	New schools may require additional support to ensure viability when first opened.

Outturn Figure

- 4.1 The outturn for 2019-20 is shown in Appendix A. When all payments are deducted from the funding available including the contribution towards Grove Academy underwriting costs there is a carry forward of £284,165. This is higher than necessary even allowing for contingency and means that only £600K of 'topslice' funding is required for 2020-21 down from £800K in 2019-20.
- 4.2 The only change to the table from the version presented to School's Forum in November 2019 is the removal of a contingency sum.

Estimated 2020-21 Requirements

- 4.5 Appendix B shows the expected expenditure including contingency allowances for 2020-21. The changes between 2019-20 and 2020-21 are:
- St Mary's will have fully expanded and will no longer be entitled to receive Growth Funding.
 - Wexham School will increase its PAN up to 240 by opening one additional permanent class.
 - A final request for funding to support the Council in funding the underwriting costs related to the opening of Grove Academy. This funding covers the period April to August 2020 and represents the completion of the 3 year's of support required to ensure Grove Academy opened when required by Slough. This figure is currently being checked by Schools Finance.
 - It is uncertain at this time whether the DfE will agree to fund the 5th Year 7 class at Grove Academy, so an allowance has been included to ensure the class is fully funded. Due to delays with the completion of their new school building Grove Academy took a decision to retain the 2019 PAN for another year rather than increase the admission number. However, Slough's projections for 2020-21 indicated that this class would be required to reduce the risk that pupils would be diverted out of borough. The DfE may claim that they were informed too late to be able to fund the class.

- 4.6 Appendices C and D are projections of Growth Fund expenditure for 2021-22 and 2022-23 assuming no changes to either local criteria or Growth Fund guidance. Please note the suggested topslices for both years.

5 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 5.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 5.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 5.3 There are no access implications.

6 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

None

Method of Consultation

Representations Received

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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2020-21 Estimated Growth Fund Allocations (£)

APPENDIX B

Date: Jul 2020

Primary AWPU (2020-21)	3,249.33
Pupils per Class	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	97,479.90
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	56,863.28
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	40,616.63

Secondary AWPU (2020-21 average)	4,677.85
KS3	4,419.49
KS4	4,936.20
Pupils per Class	30
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	140,335.35
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	81,862.29
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	58,473.06

2020-21 BUDGET (excluding funding claimed from the ESFA for academies)		
CARRY FORWARD 2019-20	284,165	
TOP SLICE FROM 2020-21 SCHOOL BLOCK	600,000	reduced from £800K
TOTAL BUDGET	884,165	

FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2020-21

	School	Status	New Pupils	No. of Classes	Remaining years	Sept 2020 - March 2021	April 2021- August 2021	TOTAL COMMITMENT
PRIMARY	Claycots School	Non-Academy	30	1	2	56,863		56,863
SECONDARY	Langley Grammar	Academy	30	1	2	81,862	58,473	140,335
	The Westgate School	Academy	60	2	3	163,725	116,946	280,671
	Wexham School	Non-Academy	75	2.5	3 / 4	204,656		204,656
	2nd Year of Academy Bulge Class (estimated growth Oct-19-Oct-20)							
	Marish Primary School	Academy	18	1	1	58,488		58,488
	CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS							
	Provisional primary class or 15 x 'plus 2s'	50% Academy	30	1	1	56,863	20,308	77,172
	Provisional secondary academy class	Academy	30	1	1	81,862	58,473	140,335
	Grove Academy - 5th Year 7 class (if not funded by DfE)	Academy / FS	30	1	1	81,862	58,473	140,335
	Grove Academy - underwriting support (Apr-20 to Aug-20)	Academy / FS				47,000	0	
	Total		303	10.5		833,182	312,674	1,098,855

Finalised when Oct 20 Census data confirmed

Still to be agreed

ESTIMATED UNDERSPEND (FINANCIAL YR 20-21)

50,983

- Historically Slough has always ended up with an underspend at year end from the Growth Fund budget. The reduction in top slice from £800K to £600K for 2020-21 means the carry forward may be much lower at the end of 2020-21. The preference is to have a working surplus rather than risk unexpected growth mid-year which requires an additional contribution from the DSG.
- Possible further underwriting of Grove Academy required from Slough for April to August to complete the 3rd year of underwriting.
- For 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 there is a forecast pressure on year 7 places and additional classes may be required to get through this peak in demand.

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2021-22 Estimated Growth Fund Allocations (£)

APPENDIX C

Date: Jul 2020

Primary AWPU (2020-21)	3,249.33	2021-22 rates will be different
Pupils per Class	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	97,479.90	
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	56,863.28	
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	40,616.63	

Secondary AWPU (2020-21 average)	4,677.85	2021-22 rates will be different
KS3	4,419.49	
KS4	4,936.20	
Pupils per Class	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	140,335.35	
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	81,862.29	
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	58,473.06	

2021-22 BUDGET (excluding funding claimed from the ESFA for academies)		
CARRY FORWARD 2020-21 (to be confirmed by School's Finance)	50,983	carry forward could be lower than in previous years
TOP SLICE FROM 2021-22 SCHOOL BLOCK (to be agreed by Schools' Forum)	750,000	Note proposed increase from 2020-21
TOTAL BUDGET	800,983	

FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2021-22

	School	Status	New Pupils	No. of Classes	Remaining years	Sept 2021 - March 2022	April 2022- August 2022	TOTAL COMMITMENT
PRIMARY	Claycots School	Non-Academy	30	1	1	56,863		56,863
SECONDARY	Langley Grammar	Academy	30	1	1	81,862	58,473	140,335
	The Westgate School	Academy	60	2	2	163,725	116,946	280,671
	Wexham School	Non-Academy	75	2.5	2 / 3	204,656		204,656
CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS								
	Provisional primary academy class	Academy	30	1	1	56,863	40,617	97,480
	Provisional secondary academy class	Academy	30	1	1	81,862	58,473	140,335
	Provisional secondary class	50% Academy	30	1	1	81,862	29,237	111,099
	Total		285	9.5		727,694	303,745	1,031,439
	ESTIMATED UNDERSPEND (FINANCIAL YR 21-22)					73,289		

1 Historically Slough has always ended up with an underspend at year end from the Growth Fund budget. This reflects the cautious approach that is taken with contingency requirements.

The preference is to have a working surplus rather than risk unexpected growth mid-year which requires an additional contribution from the DSG.

2 For 2021, 2022, 2023 there is a forecast pressure on year 7 places and additional classes may be required to get through this peak in demand.

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2022-23 Estimated Growth Fund Allocations (£)

APPENDIX D

Date: Jun 2020

Primary AWPU (2020-21)	3,249.33	2022-23 rates will be different
Pupils per Class	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	97,479.90	
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	56,863.28	
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	40,616.63	

Secondary AWPU (2020-21 average)	4,677.85	2022-23 rates will be different
KS3	4,419.49	
KS4	4,936.20	
Pupils per Class	30	
Full Year Growth Funding Per Class	140,335.35	
All schools (Sep 20 - Mar 21)	81,862.29	
Academies (Apr 21 - Aug 21)	58,473.06	

2021-22 BUDGET (excluding funding claimed from the ESFA for academies)		
CARRY FORWARD 2021-22 (to be confirmed by School's Finance)	73,289	carry forward could be lower than in previous years
TOP SLICE FROM 2022-23 SCHOOL BLOCK (to be agreed by Schools' Forum)	700,000	This could be lower or higher depending on classes opened in 2021-22
TOTAL BUDGET	773,289	

FORECAST EXPENDITURE 2022-23

School	Status	New Pupils	No. of Classes	Remaining years	Sept 2022 - March 2023	April 2023- August 2023	TOTAL COMMITMENT
The Westgate School	Academy	60	2	1	163,725	116,946	280,671
Wexham School	Non-Academy	75	2.5	1 / 2	204,656		204,656
2nd Year of Academy Bulge Class (estimated growth Oct22-Oct23)							
Primary School	Academy	15	1	1	48,740		48,740
Secondary School	Academy	15	1	1	70,168		70,168
CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS							
Provisional secondary academy class	Academy	30	1	1	81,862	58,473	140,335
Provisional secondary class	50% Academy	30	1	1	81,862	29,237	111,099
Total		225	8.5		651,012	204,656	855,668
ESTIMATED UNDERSPEND (FINANCIAL YR 22-23)							
					122,277		

1 Historically Slough has always ended up with an underspend at year end from the Growth Fund budget.

This reflects the cautious approach that is taken with contingency requirements.

The preference is to have a working surplus rather than risk unexpected growth mid-year which requires an additional contribution from the DSG.

2 For 2021, 2022, 2023 there is a forecast pressure on year 7 places and additional classes may be required to get through this peak in demand.