

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
14th June 2016

Growth Fund 2016-17
(Directorate of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the 2015-16 Growth fund Out-turn and to seek their approval to carry forward the underspend of £187,155 into the 2016-17 Growth Fund.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council recommends that the underspend is added to the agreed 2016-17 funding of **£1.1m**. This will create a Growth Fund of **£1.287m** for 2016-17. The current estimated spend for 2016-17 is **£1.169m** which includes a contingency for 4 bulge classes (or 120 new places). Based on these figures there will be an underspend of **£119k** next year.
- 2.2 Inward migration to Slough continues to put pressure on school places and Slough is operating with very low surpluses in some primary and secondary year groups. Inward migration is mainly a result of new housing and increased density via Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
- 2.3 The increase in Slough's number on roll from Jan 2015 to Jan 2016 based on Census information was **956** additional children.
- 2.4 The Growth Fund will fund agreed bulge classes as well as new places in excess of Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) at both primary and secondary schools. The preferred solution for 2016-17 which has been agreed with Slough Schools Education Forum (SSEF) is to place pupils at schools who have agreed to admit numbers above their PAN. This is considered a more cost effective solution than bulge classes, as places can be opened when they are required in the right place rather than opening 30 places at once in one part of the town. A letter has been issued to schools seeking volunteers to increase their class sizes. Bulge classes will only be considered in 2016-17 where larger classes cannot provide the capacity required.
- 2.5 See Appendix A for the out-turn report for 2015-16.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Growth Fund is required to support the continued growth in the capacity of primary and secondary school places to meet Slough's Basic Need. Slough continues to have an increasing pupil population with the primary school population not expected to peak until 2018-19. The rising demand for year 7 places is expected to continue until at least 2022. This continued growth will put increasing pressure on the Growth Fund each year as new places are created.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 All options for creating new places are being explored including:
- Bulge classes – require a one off payment from the Growth Fund
 - Permanent expansions – require a 7-year commitment from the growth fund
 - Increased class sizes or numbers above Planned Admission Number (PAN) – requiring a termly commitment from the Growth Fund where pupils are not recorded on the October School Census
 - Free Schools – requiring ongoing financial commitment after first year.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

N/A

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 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

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

Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 School Organisation Group.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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APPENDIX A

Out-turn 2015-16					Allocation
Ref	School		New Pupils	No. of Classes	2015-16 April to March
1	Cippenham Primary School*	Academy	30	1	95,460
	Claycots School	Non-Academy	150	4	222,594
2	Godolphin Junior School*	Academy	30	1	95,460
3	Montem Primary School*	Academy	30	1	95,460
	Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648
	Priory School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648
4	Ryvers Primary School*	Academy	30	1	95,460
	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648
	St Mary's CE Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648
5	Western House School	Academy	30	1	95,460
	Wexham Court Primary School	Non-Academy	30	1	55,648
6	Willow Primary School*	Academy	30	1	55,648
	Willow Primary School* April to Aug 2015	Academy	90	3	119,434
7	James Elliman - new class started on 1st Sept 2015.	Academy	30	1	55,648
	CONTINGENCY				
8	Estimated 1 new class - Cipp Primary bulge	Academy	30	1	55,648
10	Estimated 1 new class - James Elliman Yr 1 bulge	Academy	30	1	55,648
	Emergency bulge classes				
9	Estimated 1 new class - Cipp Primary Yr 1 bulge 16/11	Academy	30	1	35,774
**	Estimated 1 new class - Marish tbc 16/10/15	Academy	30	1	43,724
	Estimated 1 new class - Marish tbc 23/10/15	Academy	30	1	41,736
	Another class - tbc estimate		30	1	0
	Total		660	23	1,441,396
	Surplus carried forward to 2016-17				-187,155