

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

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**Growth Fund 2017-18**  
**(Directorate of Children's Services)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the 2017-18 Growth Fund requirement and to seek their approval to fund this from the School's block budget.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Slough Borough Council requires a topslice of £900,000 for the Growth Fund. This figure is a decrease from last year by £110,000 mainly due to a reduction in the number of permanent expansion classes, where schools have reached their full capacity and all pupils will be funded through the School Census.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Slough continues to have an increasing pupil population due to inward migration alongside a significant growth in numbers already working through the primary sector therefore the growth fund should be reviewed in light of the latest pupil projections.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 All options for creating new places in 2017-18 will require some additional revenue support as pupils will not have been recorded on the October School Census.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Proposed bulge classes will be discussed at Slough Schools Education Forum (SSEF). Bulge classes will only be funded from the Growth Fund if a letter confirming the bulge classes has been issued to the school from Slough Borough Council.
- 5.2 A second solution for meeting any shortfall in provision is to increase class sizes. SSEF has agreed that larger classes are a preferred solution in some situations and support the use of Growth Fund to fund places created after the October School Census.

- 5.3 The DfE allows the local authority to have a Growth Fund for children that start a new class after the October census and are therefore not funded.
- 5.4 Permanent new expansions agreed by Slough will be funded per additional year group until the school is full.

## **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. See Appendix A.

### Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Slough Schools Education Forum (SSEF)

### Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Meeting.

### Representations Received

- 7.3 Minutes available.

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

Tony Madden (Principal Asset Manager)  
(01753 875739)  
[tony.madden@slough.gov.uk](mailto:tony.madden@slough.gov.uk)