

2.1	<p>Vacancies remain for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Primary Governor 1 x PVI Nursery Provider vacancy 1 x Alternative Academy vacancy 1 x Primary Headteacher vacancy 1 x SILC Governor 1 x Non-school representatives 	
3.0	Growth Fund 2024/25	
3.1	<p>This additional Schools Forum meeting was called to consider and agree on the Growth Fund criteria and values as presented in a revised Growth Fund 2024/25 report. This report now makes provision for the updated growth fund requirements as defined in the Schools Operational guide 2024/25 and the Growth and Falling Rolls Fund guidance 2024/25. The criteria and values proposed within the report now supersede those discussed and approved at Schools Forum on the 16th of January 2024.</p>	
3.1.2	<p>SM explained what the three options are, as listed on the report that was circulated as Part of the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To pay all eligible schools on the current criteria (Age Weighted Pupil Unit or AWPU) ii. To pay all eligible schools on the minimum required funding with the exclusion of those primary schools currently in receipt of growth funding which will be retained at the current primary AWPU value. iii. To pay all eligible schools on the basis of growth funding received with the exclusion of those primary schools currently in receipt of growth funding which will be retained at the current primary AWPU value. <p>The minimum amount to pay in growth fund to all schools is now £1550.26.</p>	
3.1.3	<p>A question was raised about why Trinity is on the appendix and not Cockburn Lawrence Calvert. It was explained that Cockburn Lawrence Calvert is not a presumptive free school, so their funding is provided directly by EFSA.</p>	
3.1.4	<p>SF representatives from Cockburn School queried why the schools was not on appendix 1 to receive growth funding but has experienced recent growth. Cockburn increased places by 30 in Year 10 in 2020, and by an extra 30 pupils in Year 8 in 2022, these were temporary bulges and were compensated at the time but did not get any further funding.</p>	
3.1.5	<p>It was agreed that this would be discussed outside of this meeting with SM, to enable officers to go back and clarify the details.</p>	
3.1.6	<p>A SF member advised the forum that in the last 2/3 days he has been lobbied to vote in three different directions by Head Teachers and just wanted to make the forum aware of this.</p>	
3.1.7	<p>A question was raised regarding the three options. Option one is from the DfE guidance that all schools should be funded, so, are there different criteria for options two and three? LM advised that EFSA have said that whilst the criteria is the same, the values do not have to be, LM confirmed that all options still meet the DFE required criteria.</p>	

3.1.8	<p>There were discussions about the funding that is received for growth. Various comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all three options included in the growth funding allocation support schools that are growing? • Do not feel that we should divert money away from growing schools, so options two and three should not be considered and why are they preferable? • It was noted that paragraph 2.5 in the report shows there is a balance left which has been used towards other schools' growth, LCC officer advised that this is calculated on last year's growth, so there may not be enough in the growth fund in future years, which is why we need to look at it year on year. • Why options two and three when we have enough funding for option one, to fully use the funds for schools that are growing and not putting it into options two and three that are not growing?
3.1.9	<p>LM advised that the minimum value of Growth Fund has been introduced by the DFE, so we have modelled an option on this, and that the other options are put forward, to give everyone the full picture and a variety of options to consider.</p>
3.1.10	<p>Comment was made about affordability, and there is a notion that bulge cohorts will be funded. SM there is no separate funding for bulge cohort, it is paid from this growth funding budget. Minimal amount is set aside within the growth fund for unknown growth, but it is not expected to be as high. This is demonstrated within a line with Appendix 1.</p>
3.1.11	<p>Question was asked about how the LA would prefer the vote to go, DB said that the LA has not expressed a preference and it is a Schools Forum decision.</p>
3.1.12	<p>Question was asked about the reference to the Growth and Falling Rolls fund in section four of the report. The impact of this decision on future years is that growth funding may not be enough for future years and would this will this impact on a Falling Rolls Fund.</p>
3.1.13	<p>LM advised that Falling Rolls is a separate funding allocation and so would not be required to supplement the growth fund.</p>
3.1.14	<p>LM further advised that this is the funding for 24/25 but we will have to look at 25/26. If SF agree on option one and the funding reduces in future years, the criteria and values will be reassessed. Schools need to be aware of this, so they are not reliant on this money year on year.</p>
3.1.15	<p>A comment was raised that as we are talking about a significant amount of money, are the schools aware of what they are going to receive? In Appendix 2 formula funding, it looks like primary schools are losing money that potentially they were they expecting to have.</p>
3.1.16	<p>LM advised that we provided schools with similar amounts within the consultation with a caveat that these are indicative allocations and that this is the best information we had available.</p> <p>A vote was taken, and the chair advised the forum that he would abstain unless he was required to have a deciding vote.</p> <p>Option one was carried with 14 members in favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To pay all eligible schools on the current criteria (Age Weighted Pupil Unit or AWPU)

4.0	Meeting Dates for 2023-24 and Forward Plan	
	The next meeting will take place via MS Teams on Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 1630-1830.	
	Close	

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