

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 18 June 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Children’s Organisation and Provision

SUBJECT: Pupil Growth Fund

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the pupil growth agreed to date, identifies further schools for consideration and seeks permission to review and revise the arrangements for pupil growth from 2014/2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

2.1 Note the pupil growth agreed to date;

2.2 Consider the further requests for growth funding; and

2.3 Agree to a review of pupil growth criteria and request a further report on this review at the October meeting.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The School Forum meeting on 29th January 2013 considered a report on the criteria for the application of the pupil growth monies for 2013/2014. It was agreed that contingency funding be centrally held for the purpose of meeting pupil growth.

3.2 For 2013/2014 it was agreed that consideration would be given to the level of carryforward balance of any school that met the criteria for growth funding. As the final carryforward figures for schools were not available in March this report was rescheduled to the June meeting. However, as a number of schools contacted the authority to advise that they required a decision prior to 31st May in order to confirm their staffing arrangements for September 2013, permission was sought from the Vice Chair to consult all members by e-mail on the first set of schools which met the criteria and had already identified their balance commitments. Details are attached on Appendix A.

3.3 The responses received are attached at Appendix B. As the majority of the Forum supported Options A, B, C and D, each school has been notified of their approved allocation. In addition, funding of £18,594 ghost funding was agreed for Pewithall following confirmation of the level of commitments for their 2012/2013 balance.

3.4 In addition, there are a further 13 eligible schools. Appendix D provides a summary of the responses received to date. It is recommended that approval

is given to funding the growth funding at the first nine schools who have identified the commitments for their 2012/2013 balances. Contact will be made with the remaining schools week commencing 3rd June 2013.

- 3.5 It has proved difficult to administer in a consistent, objective and timely manner the revised agreed growth criteria, it is therefore proposed that a small working group be established to review the 2013/2014 procedure and suggest a more appropriate basis for allocation in 2014/2015.

4 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
School Forum – Pupil Growth Fund – 29 th January 2013	Kingsway House http://moderngov.halton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=589&Year=0	Anne Jones – Senior Finance Officer – Kingsway House, Widnes