

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 21 January 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Pupil Growth Contingency

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum options for the Pupil Growth Contingency for 2014-15.**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) **The report be noted;**
- (2) **That the Secondary contingency criteria and funding value remains at the same level as for 2013-14; and**
- (3) **That a decision be taken on which option to implement for the Primary contingency.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

At the October meeting it was agreed that the Pupil Growth Contingency for Primary schools would remain at £300,000 while the Secondary schools would remain at £80,000. A request was made for options to be investigated for the January meeting. It should be noted that a decision is required as the criteria needs to be submitted to the Education Funding Agency with the Schools Block funding formula.

3.2 **Secondary Pupil Growth Contingency**

It is recommended that the criteria is kept at an increase of 15 or more pupils at Key Stage 3/4, to be funded at £1,099.16 per pupil.

3.3 **Primary Pupil Growth Contingency**

As the contingency budget is set at £300,000 while expenditure for 2013-14 is currently just under £700,000 we have to look at options for re-working either the criteria or cash value offered.

Option 1: to keep the current criteria of infant ghost pupils plus funding increases of 15 or more pupils at either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 but to fund at a significantly reduced per pupil amount of £350.00 per year (down from £1,099.16 per pupil). This is calculated based on the October census for the current year to the October census for the previous year. Therefore funding will be

calculated after the Autumn census and would not be paid to qualifying schools until the start of the Spring Term.

Option 2: this is the same as Option 1 but calculated on a termly basis using each term's census. Funding would be devolved to schools during the following term.

Option 3: the same as Option 1 but without any funding for primary increases of 15 or more pupils so allowing the full £300,000 to be used for infant ghost funding, funded at £525.00 per ghost pupil. To be calculated on a yearly basis using the October census so would not be paid to schools until the Spring term.

Option 4: the same as Option 3 but calculated on a termly basis using each term's census. Funding would be devolved to schools during the following term.

Option 5: to fund infant ghost pupils in six bands as below with funding allocated on a mid-range basis as below apart from Band A which will not be funded. However the per pupil amount will still be at the significantly reduced level of £350.00 as in Option 1. To be calculated on a yearly basis using the October census so would not be paid to schools until the Spring Term.

Option 6: this is the same as Option 5 but calculated on a termly basis using each term's census. Funding would be devolved to schools during the following term.

| Band | No of Ghosts |
|------|--------------|
| A | 0-5 |
| B | 6-10 |
| C | 11-15 |
| D | 16-20 |
| E | 21-25 |
| F | 26-29 |

Option 7: to reduce the Primary Pupil Growth Contingency budget from £300,000 to £100,000 and to use this reduced level to fund schools which have an increase of 15 or more pupils in Key Stage 1/2. Using pupil numbers for 2013-14, this could be funded at £523.56 per pupil. The £200,000 reduction would be repaid to schools at £4,000 per school.

This option does mean that we will no longer be funding infant ghost pupils. While we are required to comply with statutory maximum class sizes we are no longer required to fund this. Unless we increase the Primary Pupil Growth Contingency budget the quantity of ghost pupils means that funding is insufficient to fund a teacher's

post.

3.4 The attached appendix details how the above options will affect the Primary schools based on 2013-14 numbers. Based on the details given above I have identified which option(s) will give the highest funding to each school. As you will see, Option 7 of reducing the contingency budget and reimbursing schools gives the highest funding to the highest number of schools.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None