

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Solihull School Forum
Meeting date:	04 December 2017
Subject/Report Title:	PUPIL NUMBER VARIATIONS FOR EXPANDING SCHOOLS
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Schools affected:	<input type="checkbox"/> All Schools <input type="checkbox"/> All Primary <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> All Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> All Special <input type="checkbox"/> All Primary and Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Maintained Schools Only <input type="checkbox"/> Academy Schools Only <input type="checkbox"/> PVI Settings <input type="checkbox"/> PRUs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
Type of Report	For information
Forum Voting	Not a voting matter - for information
Public/Private report:	Public
Exempt by virtue of Paragraph:	N/A

1. Purpose of Report
1.1 To inform Forum of pupil number variations to be applied to schools for 2018-19 financial year.
2. Decision(s) Recommended
2.1 N/A
3. Background
<p>3.1 The DfE document Schools revenue funding 2018 to 2019 - Operational guide, states the following (paragraph 52):</p> <p><i>“Variations to pupil numbers - Local authorities will no longer be expected to request approval to increase the pupil numbers used for calculating funding for specific schools where:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>there has been, or is going to be, a reorganisation</i> • <i>a school has changed, or is going to change, its admission limit</i> • <i>However, we expect local authorities to present any pupil variations to their schools forum, to illustrate the impact to overall funding and specific schools’ budgets.”</i> <p>3.2 There are two routes to funding school growth, a local growth fund held within the</p>

Schools Block, or by means of a pupil number variation. The Operational Guidance sets out considerations as to the circumstances of the appropriate route of funding. School Forum consideration the criteria for Growth Fund is contained within the Central Services report elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting.

- 3.3 The guidance is now much clearer that when growth is ongoing, e.g. the permanent expansion of a school starting with the intake year, then a pupil number variation is the appropriate route, which is why formal approval by the DfE is no longer required. The growth fund is suitable to fund bulge class or temporary growth.
- 3.4 A pupil number variation means that the October census pupil count is adjusted to reflect the additional pupil intake for the following September. This means that the school receives the full per pupil funding for the new pupil intake in-year, including the core per pupil value and associated pupil characteristics for deprivation, prior attainment etc.
- 3.5 For the growth fund the authority just pays the marginal cost – the cost of an additional teacher and classroom set up costs.
- 3.6 The Solihull approach is to apply a pupil number variation that equates to the full increase in intake (as outlined in the statutory proposal) multiplied by 7/12 to reflect the September to March financial impact. This is not on an estimates basis, so if there are fewer numbers Solihull does not claw back. The EFA make a further adjustment in respect of academy schools in respect of an April to August element to reflect a time lag in academy funding.
- 3.7 From 1 April 2018 there is a distinct element of Dedicated Schools Grant – Schools Block (DSG Schools Block) funding for pupil growth, based on the previous year's forecast.
- 3.8 For Solihull in 2018-19 this is a separate DSG allocation of £768,600 for pupil growth, consisting of £250,000 growth fund, £518,600 pupil number variation, which reflects the 2017-18 position.

4. For consideration

- 4.1 For 2018-19 the following schools are within the pupil number variation definition as schools permanently expanding from intake year upwards. The additional intake reflects the number from the statutory expansion process:

Pupil Growth 2018-19	September 2018 Additional Intake:	Pupil Number Variation added to Census (*7/12)
Greswold Primary	30	17.50
Arden	60	35.00
Chapel Fields Junior School	26	15.17
Coleshill Heath	30	17.50
Shirley Heath Junior School	30	17.50
Tidbury Green	30	17.50
Tudor Grange Academy	30	17.50
		137.67

- 4.2 Using funding rates from the National Funding Formula, the additional cost of this is estimated at £540,100. Together with the Growth fund proposed at £350,000 this gives a total expected spend of £890,100, which is £121,500 greater than the DSG

allocation, however this excludes the impact of the new protection factors in the NFF.

- 4.3 At this stage, these figures are manageable within the overall DSG allocation. Final figures will depend on the final DSG allocation and the final configuration of the school funding formula for 2018-19. As reported at the last Forum meeting, it is expected that the figure of £890,100 would become the new baseline pupil growth DSG for 2019-20.

5. List of Other Relevant Documents

- 5.1 Schools revenue funding 2018 to 2019 - Operational guide - September 2017 (DfE)