



North Tyneside
Council

Item 5b

Briefing Notes

To: Schools Forum

Date: 9 July 2025

Author:

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**Purpose of
the Paper:**

Information

Consultation

Decision

✓

Title of Briefing: Falling Rolls and Growth Fund eligibility

1. Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Schools Forum on schools initially identified as eligible for the following funding:-

- Falling Rolls
- Growth Funding
- Extraordinary Growth (linked to closure of Monkseaton High School)

1.2 Schools Forum Finance subgroup will meet to consider the funding allocations and review all evidence received on 17th July 2025. Whilst the subgroup can make recommendations on the allocation and criteria of funding, the final decision rests with Schools Forum.

2. 2025/26 Falling Rolls Funding

2.1 In line with the Falling Rolls Policy, an initial assessment of the change in pupil numbers between October 2023 and October 2024 has resulted in sixteen schools being identified as eligible for funding, with a total potential value of £0.562m. The details of these schools and the funding identified for each is included in Table 1. It is also a condition that local planning data should show that the surplus places will be needed within the next three financial years.

2.2 Table 1: Breakdown of Falling Rolls Eligibility

School	£
Fordley Primary School	30,273
Preston Grange Primary School	19,120
St Marys Roman Catholic Primary	17,526
Star of the Sea RC VA Primary	30,273
Percy Main Primary School	19,120
Hazlewood Community Primary	33,459
Battle Hill Primary School	30,273
Carville Primary School	30,273
Appletree Gardens First School	30,273
Whitley Lodge First School	25,493
Shiremoor Primary School	46,206
Burradon Community Primary	20,713
Balliol Primary School	27,086
Ivy Road Primary School	36,646
St Joseph's RC Primary School	47,799
John Spence High School	118,004
Total	562,537

- 2.3 The total 2025/26 falling roll's funding available for distribution is £0.150m, which comprises of £0.050m carried forward from 2024/25 and £0.100m in year allocation. In the previous two financial years there was a surplus yearend balance on falling rolls, a proportion of which is normally transferred back to academies, and the balance transferred to Schools in Financial Difficulty (SiFD) to support maintained Schools in deficit.
- 2.3 Potential payments of £0.563m are £0.413m more than the funds available, if all allocations are approved this deficit would need to be carried forward and funded from future years schools block funding. Due to a number of in-year academisations, there is a backlog of transferring previous years surplus balances back to Academies and Schools in Financial Difficulty of £0.415m (see Table 2). An alternative option would be to retain this surplus funding to meet the Falling Rolls gap of £0.413 detailed above.

2.4 Table 2 : Falling Rolls prior year Balances

Year	Transfer to SiFD £'m	Academy Refunds £'m	Total £'m
2022/23	0.117	0.027	0.144
2023/24	0.067	0.018	0.085
2024/25	0.135	0.051	0.186
Total	0.319	0.096	0.415

2.5 Both options will be considered by Schools Forum Finance subgroup, with recommendations reported to Forum in September 2025.

- **Option 1** Carry forward deficit balance of £0.413m and fund from future years schools block funding
- **Option 2** Fund the gap in 2025/26 falling rolls funding from £0.415m unallocated transfers to SiFD and academy refunds

2.6 If Option 2 is agreed and Schools Forum approve the Falling Rolls allocations shown in table 1, this will reduce historic balance for Schools in Financial Difficulty funding to £0.022m. The 2025/26 Schools in Financial Difficulty de-delegation is £0.105m and with the reduced brought forward balance the available funding would be £0.127m. This would be the total available to fund SiFD applications submitted by schools, for consideration by Schools Forum Finance Sub-Group.

2.7 As we continue to address the issue of the declining birth rate across North Tyneside, there has been several briefings to help school leaders understand the current situation and appreciate the scale of the challenge. There was a briefing for all head teachers on 6 March 2025, which was well attended, and the corresponding information was circulated directly afterwards.

3 2025/26 Growth Funding

3.1 When setting the 2025/26 School Block allocation, Schools Forum agreed to set aside £0.200m of the amount identified as growth funding,

however there was a £0.049m deficit carried forward from 2024/25. Therefore, the total Growth Funding available in 2025/26 is £0.151m.

- 3.2 For 2025/26 a disapplication was approved by Schools Forum and the Secretary of State to ringfence a proportion of Monkseaton High School's Funding to reallocate as a separate extraordinary growth allocation for pupils leaving MHS year 9, starting year 10 in September 2025. Additional details of this funding are included in section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 For all other growth, officers from the Authority have reviewed schools' projected pupil numbers for Sept 2025 using the latest information available from the Admissions Team. This was compared to October 2024 census data. Where schools experience high levels of growth outside of normal admissions, there will be the opportunity to request that October 2025 census data can also be considered. 9 schools, with a total funding allocation of £1.003m have been initially identified as being eligible for growth funding.
- 3.4 The eligibility criteria specifies that schools must also provide evidence that additional costs have been incurred to support structural class changes in relation to the additional pupils. The initial list of schools is included in table 3 and the funding allocations and evidence will be considered by Schools Forum Finance Subgroup on 17 July 2025.

3.5 **Table 3: Growth Funding Eligibility 2025/26**

Growth Funding	£m
Redesdale	0.036
John Spence	0.112
Marden	0.152
Norham	0.119
Burnside	0.205
Churchill	0.083
George Stephenson	0.122
North Gosforth	0.106
Whitley Bay	0.068
Total	1.003
Total Funding Available	0.151
2025/26 Deficit	0.852

- 3.6 The Authority has contacted all schools to request supporting evidence and to understand the overall position, this will be provided to subgroup to be reviewed, and the outcome will be reported to Schools Forum at the next meeting in September 2025.

4 2025/26 Extraordinary Growth Funding

- 4.1 The Local Authority created exceptional growth funding via a disapplication which was approved by Schools Forum and the Secretary of State, for the current Year 9 cohort in Monkseaton High School. This funding was retained from the 2025/26 funding allocation to Monkseaton to create the extraordinary growth fund.
- 4.2 This funding will alleviate the usual standard lag in funding when pupils change schools. The funding will be allocated to the admitting school from September 2025 and will include the key elements of the funding formula (AWPU, Deprivation, Free School Meals etc).
- 4.3 There is funding of £0.465m available and initial allocations have been shared with the schools involved, however final amounts are still being agreed. There will be a final check, using October 2025 census to confirm the final pupil numbers across schools and for any changes identified there will be positive and/or negative funding adjustments between schools.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Schools Forum is asked to:
- Note the indicative allocations of funding for based on raw data and the request for further information from individual schools and/or strategic planning.
 - Note the options to be considered by Schools Forum Finance Sub-Group and the plans to return recommendations to Schools Forum.

Appendix A – Voting Table

North Tyneside Schools Forum Member Roles & Voting							<i>last updated September 2019</i>	
de-delegation Primary	de-delegation Secondary	scheme for financing schools	consultation on funding formula	General Duties	Retained Duties	all other matters		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Voting							Phase	Role
School Members								
x		x	x	x	x	x	First	Head
x		x	x	x	x	x	Primary	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	High	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Middle	Head
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Secondary	Head
Other School Members Non Locality Based								
x		x	x	x	x	x	Primary/ First	Governor
	x	x	x	x	x	x	Secondary/Middle	Governor
		x	x	x	x	x	Nursery	Head
		x	x	x	x	x	PRU	Head
		x	x	x	x	x	Special	Head
			x		x	x	Academy	Other
Non Schools Members Non Locality Based								
		x	x			x	16-19 Providers	Other
			x			x	EY PVI	Other
						x	C of E Diocese	Other
						x	RC Diocese	Other
						x	Trades Union	Other