



Briefing note

To: Schools Forum **Author:** Claire Emmerson

Date: 22 September 2021

Purpose of the Paper:

Information	√
Consultation	
Decision	√

Title of Briefing: Falling Rolls, Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty (previously referred to as Headroom) and Growth Fund Proposed Allocations

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Schools Forums approval to make allocations of funding to eligible schools for the following:-
 - Falling Rolls
 - Schools in Financial Difficulty
 - Growth Funding
- 1.2 The Authority have met with representatives from the finance subgroup. The subgroup considered the applications for funding during June/July 2021. Whilst the subgroup has proposed the allocation of funding the final decision rests with Schools Forum.

Falling Rolls and Schools in Financial Difficulty 2021/22

- 2.1 Falling Rolls
Following an initial assessment there were five schools identified as being eligible for falling roll funding with a total value of £0.119m. The details of these schools and the funding identified for each school is included in Table 1. The total falling roll funding available for distribution is £0.300m (£0.050m carried forward and £0.250m in year allocation). As in previous years a proportion of the surplus funding will be transferred back to academies, the current estimate is that this will be around £0.030m. If approved, this will leave a balance of £0.151m of which £0.101m will be transferred to the headroom fund, leaving a closing balance of £0.050m.

Table 1: Breakdown of Falling Rolls Eligibility

School	Value £m	Comments
Christ Church	0.021	
Grasmere	0.008	
St Bartholomew's	0.018	
St Joseph's	0.020	
Waterville	0.016	
	0.083	
Greenfields	0.036	Further meeting needed with the subgroup
Total	0.119	-

2.2 Schools in Financial Difficulty (Headroom Funding)

The opening balance for de-delegated funds for Schools in Financial Difficulty (Headroom funding) in 2020/21 was £0.331m. Assuming Schools Forum approve the Falling Rolls applications as mentioned above, £0.101m will be transferred from Falling Rolls to Schools in Financial Difficulty (Headroom), giving a balance of £0.432m. From this balance the fund will cover Headroom applications of £0.335m, subject to Schools Forum approval, leaving a closing balance of £0.097m in 2021/22.

Table 2: Breakdown of Schools in Financial Difficulty (Headroom) Applications

School	Value £m
Norham	0.112
Longbenton	0.223
Total	0.335

Growth Policy 2021/22

- 3.1 The DfE established a separate fund in the School Block of the DSG for growth in 2019/20. In North Tyneside this fund was not used for growth and was instead added into the remaining balances to be redistributed to all schools. When setting the 2020/21 and 2021/22 School Block allocations, Schools Forum agreed to set aside £0.250m of the identified growth funding, with a further £0.232m allocated in 2021/22 to offset the prior year's deficit balance from 2020/21.
- 3.2 Officers from the Authority have reviewed all schools' projected pupil numbers for Sept 21 using the latest information available from the Admissions Team, then applied the criteria in the Growth Funding Policy to identify eligible schools. Five schools were eligible, of which the subgroup approved four to apply to growth funding. The four eligible schools, with a total funding request of £0.385m, were each sent a request for evidence.

Three schools have provided the relevant evidence to date. If all funding payments are approved, the 2021/22 closing balance will be £0.032m surplus.

Table 3: Growth Funding Eligibility 2021/22

Growth Funding	Value £m	Eligibility
Norham	0.051	Evidence provided
Fordley	0.047	Evidence provided
Backworth	0.120	Evidence provided
Total	0.218	

Recommendations

4.1 Schools Forum is asked to:

- Consider the funding allocations as set out in this report; and
- Provide the necessary approval for the Authority to process the payments to eligible schools.