

Schools Forum			
REPORT TITLE	Growth Fund Distribution		
KEY DECISION	Yes	Item No.	8
WARD	N/A		
CLASS	Part 1	Date	4 October 2018

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Schools Forum with the necessary information to decide on any action to be taken regarding undistributed 2018/19 Growth Fund amounts.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to:
- 2.1.1 Agree that any excess above the revised estimate of Growth Fund required for 2018/19 be distributed to schools;
- 2.1.2 Agree for recommendation 2.1.1 to be actioned during the autumn term;
- 2.1.3 Agree for recommendation 2.1.1 to be actioned in line with the Minimum Funding Guarantee

3. Background

- 3.1 Regulations restrict the uses of the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to distribution to schools via the Individual Schools Block (ISB) formula or distribution to schools via the Growth Fund.
- 3.2 The Growth Fund is set aside to provide schools with additional resources to cover expansions required for basic needs purposes (i.e. due to a shortage of places).
- 3.3 The Schools Forum in each authority decides on the specifics of the Growth Fund distribution methodology.

4. 2018/19 Growth Fund

- 4.1 The 2018/19 Growth Fund in Lewisham was set at £1,100,000 and is supplemented by an unspent balance of £130,865 from 2017/18, giving a total of £1,230,865.

- 4.2 The current estimate for the required funding (with a margin for error) stands at £800,000, meaning an excess of approximately £430,000.
- 4.3 Given the size of the amount that is anticipated to be available for distribution, it is proposed that the excess amount be given to schools during the autumn term 2018 rather than waiting until after the year-end.
- 4.4 The actual amount available will become clearer once the October census figures are finalised. Instead of waiting until December when a more definite figure could be provided, and make the funds available in the Spring term, we are seeking an 'in principal' agreement from Schools Forum to enable distribution this term.
- 4.5 If the Growth Fund had been set at a lower level, then Schools Forum would have been able to agree a higher Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) level, so it is proposed that the excess amount be distributed to replicate a higher MFG rate. Appendix 1 shows how much each school would receive from a distribution of £430,000 using this method.

5. Further Information

- 5.1 Should you require any additional information regarding the items contained in this report please contact:

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