



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 8th December 2023

Agenda Items 13 & 14

Growth Fund and Falling Rolls NFF 2024 -25

1 Background

Included within the Schools Block allocation is an amount for growth funding, which since 2019-20 has been formula driven. The formula allocates growth funding based on the differences between the primary and secondary numbers on roll in Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA) in the local authority between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. This will fluctuate from year to year and is difficult to estimate.

Latest estimates of number on roll indicate the growth funding allocation for 2024-25 will be around £3.3m. The actual allocation will not be announced until December.

This report updates school forum members of the Growth Fund spend to date and the NFF Growth Fund and Falling Roll Pupils formula update for 2024-25.

2 Growth Fund Update 2023-24

2.1 The table presented below details the cumulative expenditure for Growth Fund in North Northamptonshire, categorised by region:

	Primary	Secondary
Corby	£ 66,116.00	£ 106,091.00
Kettering	£ 23,268.00	£ 189,625.00
Wellingborough	£ 79,859.00	£ 161,248.00
	<u>£ 169,243.00</u>	<u>£ 456,964.00</u>

2.2 Criteria

Growth Funding need to be set in agreement with Schools Forum and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the fund is for the benefit of both maintained schools and academies.

NNC undertook a consultation with members to agree the Growth Funding Criteria. The outcome of this consultation is 83% for the criteria and 16% against. The Grant Determination will be announced at the end of December.

2.3 Recommendation

We Recommend that the Criteria is set as part of the working party in January together with the Falling Rolls Criteria.

3. Falling Rolls 2024-25 Update

3.1 As outlined previously the DFE have introduced a Falling Roll Fund. The DFE are funding the Falling Rolls Fund based on the forecasted pupil numbers. The Determination for the falling rolls will be made at the end of December. NNC consulted members on this last month and the outcome is supportive of the Falling rolls criteria but by a narrow margin at 44% against and 55% in favour. On this basis we are recommending that a working party is established to determine the criteria in the New Year.

Please note the full consultation outputs can be found elsewhere in the information pack.

4. Legal implications

4.1 The legislation governing the Schools Forum powers and responsibilities is available at the link below. This outlines that deductions that require a vote by all Schools Forum members.

[Stat guidance template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

5 For further information on the legislature for deductions please see [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

6. Risks

6.1 If Pupil Growth Fund is not established for 2024-25, NNC will not be able to fund previously agreed growth across the primary and secondary phases of education in North Northamptonshire and 'new and growing' schools will not receive budgeted for growth funding. This is likely to result in severe budget issues at several schools listed above, incur significant reputational damage and possible legal action against NNC by the schools involved.

6.2 Should a Pupil Growth Fund for 2023-24 be established but with insufficient budget to fund all required growth in North Northamptonshire, NNC may fail to fulfil its statutory obligations of providing a sufficiency of school places.

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