

SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING – 16TH MARCH 2016

Updated Schools Funding Contingency Procedures

Falling Rolls Fund Contingency and Growth Fund Procedure

Introduction

The purpose of this note is to recommend, subject to any comments Schools Forum may have, an amendment to one of the eligibility criteria of the above procedures to be applied in assessing whether a school applying to access such funding meets the eligibility criteria.

Background

The original strict criteria remain unchanged. The purpose of this amendment is ensuring best use of funds.

This procedure is being revised to clarify the funding that will be available to ensure that the limited resources are used where needed most, that is are not distributed to schools who can afford the additional costs through their retained or predicted in year surpluses.

Criteria to be amended

The criteria to be refined is recorded below:

Schools must be able to demonstrate that they are unable to fund the request themselves. Where the school is maintained reference will be made to the school budget plan, where the school is an academy evidence such as system management accounts showing the projected outturn position and reserves position will be required as a minimum.

This criteria as it is currently worded allows for a great deal of subjectivity which it is felt could be subject to challenge. Officers propose therefore that as a general guide where reserves are in excess of say 10% then this sum should be offset the requested or calculated sum.

Recommendation

We would request Schools Forum to approve the above amendment to one of the eligibility criteria for both the falling rolls fund and the growth fund.

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