

Delegated Cabinet Member Key Decision Report

Decision Maker and Portfolio area:	Cllr Shaid Mustaq (Member for Education and Skills)
Date of Decision:	10th September 2019
Subject:	Growth Funding Allocations
Report Author:	Andy Collinge (Head of School Support Services)
Ward (s):	No

Reason for the decision: To secure additional funding for pupil place growth in Bluecoat Academy, Oldham Academy North and Oasis Leesbrook.

Summary: Local authorities may top slice the DSG in order to create a Growth Fund to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, including pre-opening, diseconomy and reorganisation costs. The growth fund may not be used to support schools in financial difficulty (any such support for maintained schools would be provided from a de-delegated contingency) or general growth due to popularity.

The growth contingency is for planned, phased growth to meet basic need following a decision made by the Local Authority to expand the capacity within that school. Approval has also been granted to expand the growth criteria further to support where a school or academy has agreed with the authority to provide an extra class to meet basic need in the area. It is for an increase in capacity for an increase of 5 pupils or more, rolled out into each year group on a

phased annual basis.

Schools Forum agreed to expand the growth fund criteria further in 2017/18 to "support a school, who at the request of the Council, and to meet Basic Need demand within the authority has a significant number of expected new arrivals in school after the October census date"

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

The LA has a statutory duty to offer a school place to every pupil in the borough. Failure to adequately fund pupil places may result in schools not offering places to pupils. As a result, the LA would be failing in its statutory duty to offer a school place. In line with the approved growth criteria the above schools meet the criteria set for additional funding.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the above funding is approved as it meets all the required criteria for additional funding.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The budget for unallocated growth for 2019/20 is £454,326. There is also a further £82,544 from 2018/19 which is no longer required.

The following schools all meet the growth criteria and are eligible for growth funding as follows: -

1. Bluecoat school have requested funding for an additional 13 pupils from September 2019 to meet basic need. 11 of these places will benefit Oldham residents.
2. Based on information provided, the number of international new arrivals in the following schools since October 2018 is: -

School	Pupils since October 2018 census @April 2019
Oldham Academy North	12
Waterhead	19
Oasis Leesbrook	20

The cost of the above proposals can be funded from the unallocated growth funding and for 2019/20 is as follows: -

School	Amount £
1. Bluecoat	51,086
2. Oldham Academy North	47,156
2. Waterhead	74,664
2. Oasis Leesbrook	78,593
Total 2019/20	251,469

On approval of the allocation of £251,469, a total of £285,371 is available to address other growth needs.

Liz Caygill

What are the **procurement** implications?

None

What are the **legal** implications?

The proposed use of the Growth Funding is lawful and will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for pupils in the borough. Colin Brittain

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

There are no HR implications (Andy Collinge)

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)

Advice has been sought on EDI and there are no implications for any vulnerable groups.

What are the **property** implications

None.

Risks:

Failure to agree funding leaves the LA at risk of not fulfilling its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

Co-operative agenda

The recommended option supports Oldham's

Plan's ambition for children and young people to improve their lives through the provision of effective teaching and learning by ensuring that there are sufficient quality school places.

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

Reason why this Is a Key Decision (1) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure or the making of savings which are, significant (over £250k) having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates

The Key Decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **five working days** have elapsed from the publication date of the decision, i.e. before 20th September unless exempt from call-in.

This item has been included on the Forward Plan under reference EDS – 05-19

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
Date:	



Signed : Interim Director of Children's Services: Date: 24 October 2019



Signed : Cabinet Member for Education & Skills. Date: 22 October 2019

