

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 6th October 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

2022-23 FALLING ROLLS AND GROWTH FUND

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the option of how the falling rolls and growth fund is distributed for 2022-23.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following consideration by Schools Forum meetings in November 2020, the criteria for distributing the falling rolls and growth fund for 2020-21 was agreed as:

- the growth and falling rolls fund would be one fund, and
- allocation of the fund will be based on 3-year pupil number changes (not percentage growth or fall),

2.2 The total fund of £466k was distributed to 23 schools applying the above criteria in 2020-21

2.3 As the value of the falling roll and growth fund for 2021-22 (£153k) was significantly less than the value of 2020-21, to explore more effective use of the fund, several potential criteria for allocation of the fund were identified and presented at the June 2021 meeting. The options considered were listed as below - further details of each option as presented at the meeting is as appendix A:

- Option A – as set in 2.1 above
- Option B - option A but where the cumulative % change is 10% or more.
- Option C - falling rolls as per option A. Growth based on one year change in number of pupils
- Option D – option C but where financial award is not less than £3,500.
- Option E – option C but where the growth reflects a change of 5% or more for Primary Schools and 2.5% for Secondary Schools

2.4 The Forum agreed to adopt option B and resulted in 14 schools benefiting from the distribution of the fund in 2021-22

2.5 The value of the falling rolls and growth fund for 2022-23 is reported at the June 2022 meeting as £131k. The value of the fund is currently determined by the 'headroom' in the Schools Block allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after the funding formula has been applied. Following consultation with schools in October 2021, it was agreed that the 2022-23 funding formula would include a

+1.25% minimum funding guarantee (MFG) to secure the widest possible distribution of the allocation directly to schools. Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) regulations do allow for distribution to exceed the value of the fund but overspends will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

3.0 DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2022-23 FUND

3.1 The table below is the summary of the outcome of applying the options listed in 2.2 above - Appendix B shows the detailed allocation outcome of applying these options:

		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
Growth	Primary	4	1	30	30	8
	Secondary	10	5	14	14	5
Falling Rolls	Primary	10	3	10	10	10
	Secondary	1	0	1	1	1
Total Number of schools receive allocation		25	9	55	55	24
Average Allocation per school		£5,255	£14,598	£2,389	£4,122	£5,474

Please note that application of Option D exceeds fund thus overspend will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance.

3.2 Option B is felt to be the most appropriate basis for allocation of the fund as it provides consistency with previously agreed criteria whilst providing useful individual allocations that support their effective use within the confines of a limited fund.

4.0 FUTURE FOCUS

4.1 The current basis for allocating the falling rolls and growth fund focus on overall cumulative/year-on-year changes with little consideration of the factors that drive the changes and further development should be considered.

4.2 Following the Direct NFF consultation in 2021, DfE states that its preferred way is to continue to operate the falling rolls and growth funds locally but combining local flexibility with more prescription and regulation. It is probable that the DfE would make changes to legislation to mandate that local authorities prepare more consistent policies and restrict the operation of these funds.

4.3 The further outcome of the consultation and/or the government decision will be presented in the future meeting when they are published.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That Schools Forum adopt Option B as the basis for distributing the 2022-23 Falling Rolls and Growth Fund as this option aims to target the significant impact

of falling rolls and growth whilst allocating funding on a basis to support its effective use

5.2 That the Forum notes the future focus set out in section 4.0.

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix A

	Features	Advantages	Disadvantages
A	Takes account of consistent 3-year change.	Consistent application across years.	Financial awards relatively small due to size of fund and growth in number of recipients thus impact may not be effective in each school.
B	Takes account of consistent 3-year significant change.	Financial award more meaningful value to support effective use.	Limit to number of schools that benefit.
C	Takes account of consistent 3-year change for falling rolls and one year change growth.	Focus on continuing falling rolls and new growth. Maximises distribution across schools	Financial awards relatively small in some cases due to size of fund and growth in number of recipients thus impact may not be effective in each school. Does not take account of on-going growth impact.
D	As per option C but with minimum funding level.	Focus on continuing falling rolls and new growth. Maximises distribution across schools whilst providing a meaningful financial award.	Application exceeds fund thus overspend will form part of the overall DSG surplus or deficit balance. Does not take account of on-going growth impact.
E	As per option C where growth change is significant.	Focus on continuing falling rolls and new significant growth. Financial awards meaningful to ensure effective use of overall funding.	Limit to the number of schools that will benefit. Does not take account of on-going growth impact.

Appendix B

Ref	Falling Rolls/ Growth Fund	2022-23					Falling Rolls = 3 year consistent change. Growth = 2022-23 increase where the increase reflects a change of 5% or more for Primary and 2.5% or more for Secondary
		Distribution based on existing criteria	3 Yr. consistent growth or fall where cumulative change is based on an impact of 10% or more	Falling Rolls = 3 year consistent change. Growth = 2022-23 increase	Falling Rolls = 3 year consistent change. Growth = 2022-23 increase (minimum award of £3,500)		
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		£	£	£	£	£	
A001	G	1,436	0	778	3,500	0	
A003	G	0	0	2,802	3,500	0	
A004	G	0	0	1,557	3,500	0	
A006	G	6,461	0	3,263	3,500	0	
A005	F	3,384	13,559	5,137	5,137	7,131	
A007	G	13,333	17,216	6,226	6,226	8,643	
A014	G	7,897	0	467	3,500	0	
A019	G	7,487	0	2,335	3,500	0	
A020	G	0	0	2,024	3,500	2,809	
A024	F	7,384	17,375	11,208	11,208	15,558	
A025	F	1,538	0	2,335	3,500	3,241	
A026	G	0	0	623	3,500	0	
A028	G	0	0	1,090	3,500	0	
A030	G	0	0	934	3,500	0	
A032	G	0	0	311	3,500	0	
A034	G	3,179	0	2,335	3,500	0	
A036	G	4,000	0	2,958	3,500	0	
A038	G	0	0	623	3,500	0	
A041	G	0	0	778	3,500	0	
A042	G	0	0	2,179	3,500	3,025	
A044	G	0	0	3,892	3,892	5,402	
A045	G	0	0	1,712	3,500	0	
A050	G	0	0	2,179	3,500	3,025	
A051	G	0	0	156	3,500	0	
A055	G	0	0	467	3,500	0	
A056	G	0	0	156	3,500	0	
A058	F	1,744	0	2,646	3,500	3,673	
A060	G	18,666	22,127	8,250	8,250	11,452	
A061	G	0	0	623	3,500	0	
A064	F	1,231	0	1,868	3,500	2,593	
A040	G	3,590	11,446	156	3,500	0	
A066	G	14,871	15,784	9,340	9,340	12,965	
A070	G	0	0	1,401	3,500	1,945	
A072	G	9,128	9,237	9,184	9,184	12,749	
A054	G	0	0	1,868	3,500	0	
A073	F	4,205	10,770	6,382	6,382	8,859	
A075	F	1,026	0	1,557	3,500	2,161	
A077	G	3,282	0	467	3,500	0	
A078	G	0	0	467	3,500	0	
A079	G	0	0	3,892	3,892	0	
A081	F	615	0	934	3,500	1,296	
A084	G	0	0	311	3,500	0	
A088	G	0	0	3,892	3,892	5,402	
A090	F	1,231	0	1,868	3,500	2,593	
A093	G	12,512	13,865	5,292	5,292	7,347	
A095	G	1,128	0	311	3,500	0	
A098	F	820	0	1,245	3,500	1,729	
A099	G	0	0	1,712	3,500	0	
A101	F	1,231	0	1,868	3,500	2,593	
A102	G	0	0	2,179	3,500	3,025	
A103	G	0	0	1,245	3,500	0	
A107	G	0	0	778	3,500	0	
A108	G	0	0	1,557	3,500	2,161	
A109	G	0	0	623	3,500	0	
A111	G	0	0	934	3,500	0	
		131,378	131,378	131,378	226,694	131,378	

Assumptions/Factors applied:

- * Growth relates to pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need.
- * Falling rolls support is available only for schools with a good or outstanding Ofsted inspection
- * Pupil numbers used in calculations are those presented in each October census.