

## **Report to the Schools Forum 21 November 2019**

### **T&W 2020/21 Falling Rolls Fund**

- 1.1 Prior to 2019/20, there had been a falling rolls fund in T&W for a number of years. Funds were allocated to schools with a reduction in pupil numbers of more than 3% and a 'Good' or better Ofsted rating (the latter being a criteria required by the DfE). The support provided was for one year only, i.e. the school would only receive further falling rolls support if in the following year there was another reduction in pupils of more than 3%.
- 1.2 The issue of a falling rolls fund for 2019/20 was discussed extensively by the Forum at the January 2019, March 2019 and May 2019 meetings. Potentially eligible schools were asked to submit information justifying a possible allocation. However, the final Forum decision was not to distribute any funds. The £50,000 put aside was instead applied to high needs.
- 1.3 Falling rolls has become an issue of more limited significance in T&W in recent years. An overall increase in pupil numbers has led to most schools having a relatively stable or increasing roll. This is continuing, with estimated pupil numbers for October 2019, suggesting that only nine schools will experience a reduction in pupils of more than 10. Of these nine, only two have a reduction of more than 20.
- 1.4 The Forum is asked to express a view on whether or not T&W should have a falling rolls fund for 2020/21. If it is, the Forum is asked to express a view on how much should be put aside and the criteria for distributing the fund.

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