

Report to the Schools Forum 11 January 2018

T&W 2018/19 Falling Rolls Fund

- 1.1 There has been a falling rolls fund in T&W for a number of years. Funds have been allocated to schools with a reduction in pupil numbers of more than 3%. The support provided has been for one year only i.e. the school would only receive further falling rolls support if the following year saw a further reduction in pupils of more than 3%.
- 1.2 Falling rolls has become an issue of more limited significance in T&W in recent years. The increase in pupils has led to most schools having stable or increasing pupils, and this trend has now reached the point where the increase in secondary sector pupil numbers is on a similar scale to that in the primary sector.
- 1.3 Confirmed pupil numbers from the October 2017 census show that pupil numbers in 19 schools in T&W were lower in October 2017 compared to October 2016. However, for 13 of these schools, the decrease in pupils was 5 or less, leaving a handful of schools with significant decreases.
- 1.4 In addition to the 3% threshold, DfE rules mean that to be eligible schools must have a 'Good' or better Ofsted rating. The qualifying date for this rating has been set locally (Schools Forum January 2015) at 1st January preceding the relevant financial year, i.e. 1 January 2018 for 2018/19. The school must also be expected to increase pupil numbers over the next few years.
- 1.5 We also have a local rule that schools cannot receive falling rolls or growth/estimated numbers funding in the same financial year.
- 1.6 Based on these criteria and pupil numbers, 2 schools, both in the primary sector, would meet the criteria for falling rolls support in 2017/18. The reduction in pupil numbers in these schools is 8% (representing a reduction of 35 pupils) and 5% (representing a reduction of 18 pupils).
- 1.7 In 2017/18 a sum of £50,000 was allocated to the falling rolls fund. Forum is asked to approve the same amount for 2018/19, to be distributed based on the criteria described above.

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