

Report to the Schools Forum 17 January 2019

T&W 2019/20 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 relatively stable or increasing pupil numbers.
- 1.3 In 2018/19 falling rolls funds were only paid out to two schools; both of which were in the primary sector.
- 1.4 Confirmed pupil numbers from the October 2018 census show that pupil numbers in 22 schools (out of 66 in T&W) were lower in October 2018 compared to October 2017. Breaking down these numbers:

Decrease No.	Number of schools	Decrease %	Number of schools
0-5 pupils	9	< 1%	6
6-10 pupils	7	1% – 3%	7
11-15 pupils	5	3% - 5%	5
16 +	1	5% - 10%	1
		10% - 20%	2
		20% +	1
Total	22	Total	22

- 1.5 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 2019 for 2018/19. The school must also be expected to increase pupil numbers over the next few years.
- 1.6 We also have a local rule that schools cannot receive falling rolls or growth/estimated numbers funding in the same financial year.
- 1.7 Based on these criteria and pupil numbers, 8 schools, all in the primary sector, would meet the criteria for falling rolls support in 2019/20.
- 1.8 In 2018/19 a sum of £50,000 was allocated to the falling rolls fund. Forum is asked to approve the same amount for 2019/20, to be distributed based on the criteria described above.

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