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#### **CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

#### **SCHOOLS’ FORUM – 22ND MARCH 2021**

# REPORT BY LEAD STRATEGIC FINANCE MANAGER – CHILDREN’S SERVICES

**FALLING ROLLS PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS SUMMARY 2021/22**

This report informs Schools’ Forum of the 2021/22 falling rolls business cases considered by officers and the proposed allocations.

## FOR DECISION

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   1. The Schools’ Forum at the meeting on 20th January 2021 (Paper A3) agreed falling rolls funding of £235,000 from the 2021/22 schools block of the DSG. The Forum also agreed to retain the current criteria for funding falling rolls protection, subject to individual schools submitting a falling rolls business case for approval by the March 2021 Schools Forum. As a result of the decision the Falling Rolls Appendix was revised to reflect funding at 80% of AWPU, and that schools that had previously received falling rolls were not eligible for 2021-22 funding as shown at Appendix A.
   2. This report provides a summary of business cases supporting proposed 2020/21 allocations.
   3. The criteria for falling rolls funding agreed at the Schools’ Forum in January 2021 are:

* Schools must meet the OFSTED criteria of good or outstanding to qualify (mandatory criteria).
* Schools in receipt of falling rolls funding in previous years do not qualify.
* Schools with less than 5% reduction do not qualify, schools with reductions of greater than 5% may qualify. The first 5% of the roll reduction will not be funded.
* Funding will be pegged at 80% of the AWPU rate but limited to the agreement of businesses cases.

1. **SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CASES**
   1. All Schools that were eligible for funding were required to submit a final case by 2ndMarch 2021,supporting the use of the funding in 2021/22. The review of the business cases included examination of balances, whether schools need the additional funding and what actions they are taking to restructure and deal with the reducing numbers of pupils.
   2. Appendix A shows the schools who meet the criteria for falling rolls, all of whom have submitted a business case, and the allocations that would be made to those schools:

Essendine

Soho Parish

St Mary of the Angels

* 1. The action in business cases includes joining up classes; planned restructures of teaching and non teaching staff; sharing of resources with other schools; and further marketing of the schools.
  2. It is confirmed that all cases provided an updated financial position, an explanation of how the additional funding would be used, the action to be taken to deal with the falling rolls and restructurings taking place.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
   1. Schools’ Forum are recommended to allocate falling rolls funds to schools meeting the criteria as shown in Appendix A at £235,000.

**Anita Stokes**

**Lead Strategic Finance Manager –** **Bi-Borough Children’s Services**

**Sarah Newman**

**Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children’s Services**

**Background papers:**

ESFA – Pre-16 Schools Funding Guidance 2021-22

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2021-to-2022

Business cases provided by individual schools

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