



North Tyneside Council

Briefing note

To: Schools Forum

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Title of Briefing: Falling rolls and headroom funding for 2016/17 – allocation process

Purpose

To agree the process to allocate the funding available for falling rolls and headroom funding during the spring term.

1. Background

There are two budgets in place to support schools with financial pressures:

- Falling rolls funding - £0.300m
- Headroom funding – circa £0.197m

Whilst the criteria for allocating these budgets differ, the Deficit Sub-group has played a key role in the process in recent years and it is proposed to maintain this process moving forward.

2. Falling rolls

Schools Forum considered and approved the criteria for falling rolls allocation at meetings last year, with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) approving the North Tyneside approach. Some slight revisions are proposed for 2016/17 with the criteria set out at Appendix A.

One of the key criteria for this funding, which is mandated by the EFA, is that schools must have a good or outstanding Ofsted rating when the funding is awarded.

The criteria proposed in North Tyneside for 2016/17 uses changes in pupil numbers between 2014, 2015 and 2016 census data. The 2016 data was received in draft form shortly before Christmas and the indications are that 8 schools meet at least one of the initial pupil number criteria. Of these schools, 3 schools do not currently meet the Ofsted rating. Of the 5 who do, 2 schools exceed the budget threshold.

Proposed approach

In order to ensure the process can be concluded by the end of the spring term, the following process is proposed:

- Schools meeting the pupil reduction and budget threshold are contacted by finance officers by email on 1 February (to allow time for final census data to be reviewed) and the application process is explained
- Schools wishing to apply submit their application by 29 February
- Sub-group meeting takes place during early-mid March
- Final decision by 7 April (end of term)
- Notification to schools on 24 April, and confirmation to Schools Forum on 17 May 2017.

3. Headroom funding

Headroom funding is only applicable for those schools with approved deficit budgets for 2016/17, with the added requirement that their outturn position is within the approved level. Whilst the allocation process is undertaken during 2016/17, the final award is not made until the outturn position, i.e. as at 31 March 2017, is known.

Proposed approach

The Sub-group will consider headroom funding at the same time as the falling rolls (expected early-mid March). Schools and Schools Forum will be notified of the draft award at the same time as the falling rolls process although the final confirmation will not be possible until the year end position is known (expected May 2017).

4. Membership

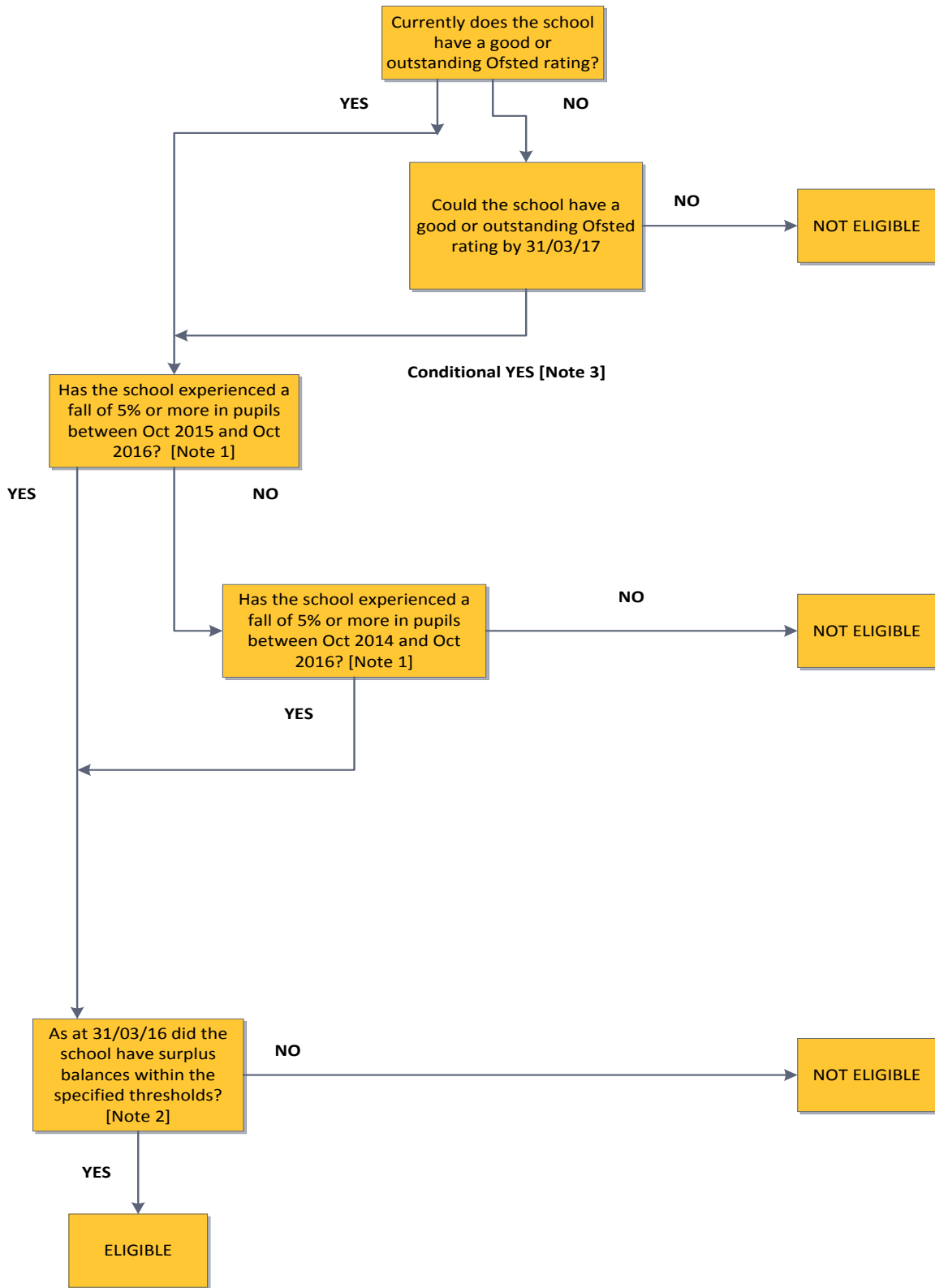
This group has worked well in the past but due to changes in Schools Forum membership, we are seeking to refresh its membership so volunteers are requested from schools who are not in deficit.

5. Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

1. Approve the process for Falling Rolls funding as set out in section 2
2. Approve the process for Headroom funding as set out in section 3
3. Consider the membership of the Sub-group and invite people to volunteer if applicable

Appendix A: Falling rolls flow chart



Note 1: pupil numbers only relate to Reception to Year 11 (ie exclude nursery and sixth form)

Note 2: applicable thresholds are 2.5% of budget for secondary, 4% for primary

Note 3: If a good or outstanding Ofsted rating is not received, any application for support will be invalidated