**Schools Forum**

**Item No.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report title:** | **Possible School Closure – APT Adjustment** |
| **Date of meeting:** | **19 January 2022** |

**Executive summary**

|  |
| --- |
| **To give options for the treatment of a possible school closure within the 2022/23 Authority Proforma Tool.**  **Schools Forum are asked to make a recommendation from options that the LA could implement, including, if necessary (for option 2) Forum approval (all members) for an increase to the 2022/23 Growth Fund.** |

West Raynham Primary C of E Primary Academy is due to close with the final approval date being the 28th February 2022.

The Authority Proforma Tool (APT) which drives the school budgets for 2022/23 is due to be submitted on the 21st January 2022.

Therefore, the decision on school closure will not be made in time for the APT submission deadline. School closure is anticipated - there are currently no children attending the school but there is a risk, albeit small, that the school may not be closed and in that case a budget is required to be submitted in the APT.

Treatment of this school within the 2022/23 APT has been discussed with the Education & Skills Funding Agency, and the options they have given to mitigate the risk are either:

**Option 1 -** Enter the school into the APT which would generate the lump sum figure of £121,300 for the school (as there are no pupils attending). If the school remains open, the ESFA will recoup this funding from the ESFA in the usual way for academies. However, if the school closes, the ESFA have said that they will still recoup this funding from the Local Authority as it has been given as part of the DSG allocation for 2022/23 and it would be on the ‘Recoupment’ tab of the APT.

**Option 2-** Increase either the Falling Rolls Fund, not used in Norfolk, or the Growth Fund to create a contingency amount to ensure the risk is covered should the school remain open. This option will not involve any recoupment from the ESFA and therefore if the school does close no funding will be removed from the 2022/23 DSG allocation. The amount suggested is the lump sum amount for 2022/23 of £121,300 as that is the budget that the school would need if it stayed open with no pupils (increasing the agreed growth fund from £500,000 to £621,300). **Full Schools Forum approval is required for implementation of this option (all members may vote).**

**Option 3 -** Exclude West Raynham from the APT altogether (including no increase to growth fund as a contingency for it opening) leaving a small risk should the school not be given approval to close. If the school remains open and requires a budget, it will create an overspend on the Schools Block for 2022/23.

**Schools Forum are asked to make a recommendation of which of the above options the LA should implement, including, if necessary (for option 2) Forum approval (all members) for an increase to the 2022/23 Growth Fund.**