

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 13 May 2021

PRESENT:

Ken Childs (Chair)	Special Schools Governor
Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors
Andrew Fowler	Secondary Academies
Brendan Robson	Secondary Faith Academies
Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
David Brophy	Secondary Academy Governors
Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
Steve Horne	Gateshead Council
Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Largue, Sarah Diggie and Denise Kilner.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

Item 6 (DSG Revenue Budget) – It was noted that there was no resources within the team to provide a full breakdown of the High Needs Budget at the last meeting. However, a verbal update was provided which confirmed that the budget was up by £1.1m through top ups and additional staff resources which will increase support across schools.

3 GROWTH FUND ALLOCATION

A report was received to confirm a successful application for Growth Funding.

An application was made by Washingwell Primary School for funding for pupil growth from September 2021. The school will have an estimated growth of 33 pupils between October 2020 and October 2021 due to there being no other schools in the area with places available.

This is an increase of 26% and the primary thresholds for growth funding are an additional 16 pupils or 10% of the school roll. Therefore it was agreed that Washingwell Primary School fit the Growth Fund criteria.

The allocation was calculated as just over £60,000, however this is capped at £40,000 for the period September 2021 to March 2022.

It was noted that it was unclear whether these increased pupil numbers will continue to grow as pupil projections are not yet known for that area.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted that funding has been awarded to Washingwell Primary School for growth in pupil numbers.

**Alison Hall declared an interest in this item as Headteacher of Washingwell Primary School.*

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Forum was advised that guidance allows for virtual meetings to continue on a permanent basis and the Forum was asked for its views.

The general feeling from the Forum was that virtual meetings work well for certain meetings but that some meetings would be useful to have face to face.

It was agreed that this approach would be formalised at the next meeting.

5 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 July 2021 at 2pm.