

**TITLE OF REPORT: Contingency Funding Application**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the decision to provide contingency funding to Eslington Primary School.

**Background****Eslington Primary School – Rose Street Site**

2. The school applied for contingency funding under criteria 3 as detailed below. The full list of Updated Contingency Funding Criteria is shown in appendix1.
3. “Emergency costs arising from incidents outside the control of the governing body of the school (e.g. flood or fire damage). The money allocated for these purposes will be earmarked for specific use.”
4. The school expanded onto a second site from September 2015 to increase the number of Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) special school places. Prior to the school moving into the new site, work had been undertaken to convert the building back into a school.
5. However it was only when the building started being used as a school again (Tyne View as a school closed July 2007) a number of issues came to light:-
  - A wall bordering the school had been uplifted by tree roots and was in danger of collapse
  - Tree roots had penetrated children’s toilets drains, blocking the drains
  - Leaking roof in the IT room
  - Hot water boiler issues
  - Boiler House repairs
  - Trip hazard in the carpark
6. The total cost of all work required totalled £18,381, which was a much reduced cost from the original estimates.
7. The school did not have sufficient revenue funding to fund the repairs, the Local Authority could not provide funding as the only funding available was capital funding and all the above items are repairs and maintenance and therefore a revenue cost.
8. The majority of the repairs would not be needed if the site had not been converted back to a school.

## **Process**

9. The application was reviewed against the Contingency Criteria and colleagues in EducationGateshead, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services and Corporate Asset Strategy Team had input into the review process of the contingency application, and fully support the application.

## **Proposal**

10. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes that £18,381 funding was provided to Eslington Primary School to address the specific revenue repairs and maintenance issues.

## **Recommendations**

11. It is recommended that School Forum notes the funding provided to Eslington Primary School.

## **For the following reasons:**

- To provide funding to Eslington Primary School for repairs to their new site at Rose Street.

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**CONTACT: Carole Smith ext. 2747**

## Appendix 1

### Updated Contingency Funding Criteria

The LEA will retain centrally contingency funding that **could** provide in-year support to schools for:

1. Cost pressures specifically identified and caused by a relatively large numerical change in pupil numbers, especially if it relates to a single age-group, where the change is outside the control of the governing body and where the timing of the change in circumstances prevents no opportunity to the school to plan accordingly (eg housing demolition or compulsory purchase orders, or reorganisation)
2. The correction of significant errors in the data or in the application of the resource allocation formula.
3. Emergency costs arising from incidents outside the control of the governing body of the school (eg flood or fire damage). The money allocated for these purposes will be earmarked for specific use.
4. The provision of additional resources or other special support, temporarily, in response to a school found to be in need of Special Measures within the meaning of Part V of the Education Act 1993 and in accordance with DFE Circular 17/93.
5. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of pupils with new or revised statements of SEN, or for statemented pupils transferring between schools within the LEA.
6. For in-year allocations to schools in respect of the admission of pupils permanently excluded by other schools. Such allocations will be determined in accordance with Regulations made by the Secretary of State under Section 47 of the 1998 Act.
7. Schools that are in financial difficulty, and can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to address financial issues, and that the current financial difficulties are not as a result of financial mismanagement. Schools must apply the LEA's "Model of Reasonableness" before making an application to demonstrate that they meet the criteria.

If contingency is given and a school ends the same financial year with a surplus balance in excess of 0% the contingency payment, or a proportion of it, will be clawed back.