

## GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA

Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 2.00pm, meeting to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams

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From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

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Item	Business
1	<b>Apologies</b>
2	<b>Minutes</b> (Pages 3 - 6)  The Forum is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 March 2021
3	<b>Growth Fund Allocation</b> (Pages 7 - 14)  Carole Smith, Resources and Digital
4	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 8 July 2021 at 2pm

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Tel: 0191 433 2088, Date: Wednesday 5 May 2021

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## GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 18 March 2021

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Ken Childs (Chair)	Special Schools Governor
	Peter Largue (Vice Chair)	Trade Union Representative
	Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors
	Brendan Robson	Secondary Faith Academies
	Alison Hall	Primary Maintained Schools
	Denise Kilner	Nursery Sector Representative
	Julie Goodfellow	Primary Academy Headteachers
	Steve Haigh	Secondary Academy Headteachers
	Mustafaa Malik	Primary Headteachers
	Ethel Mills	PVI Sector Representative
	Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
	Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
	Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
	Christina Jones	Pupil Referral Unit
	David Brophy	Secondary Academy Governors
Sarah Diggle	Secondary Maintained Governors	
Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors	
Julie Vincent (Sub)	Special School Headteachers	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
	Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
	Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council
	Lynne Kilford	Gateshead Council
	Alister Parker	Observer

#### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Fowler, Clive Wisby, Martin Flowers, Cllr Sheila Gallagher, Cllr Gary Haley and Steve Horne.

#### 2 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

#### Matters Arising

The Vice Chair welcomed David Brophy to his first meeting of the Schools Forum. David is the newly appointed representative for Secondary Academy Governors.

### **3 SPECIAL SCHOOL TOP UPS**

The Forum received a report proposing to increase Special School top up weightings by 2%. Special School Headteachers have been consulted and no objections were received.

It was suggested that the same level of detail be provided for the Special School funding formula as is provided for mainstream schools. It was noted that this is not as straightforward as in mainstream schools however if the Forum was interested in receiving this information it could be provided.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the 2% increase in the Special School weighting for Special School top ups.

### **4 MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS TOP UPS**

A report was received proposing that mainstream high needs top up rates be increased in line with mainstream MFG of 2%.

The point was made that as a benchmark this does not reflect what schools actually get. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to understand how the funding is used in mainstream to better understand the continuum of support to see the funding following the child.

It was noted that this is an allocation model only although it was agreed that it would be helpful to share the special school models as it would be worth looking at models for all sectors. It was also noted that it is applied differently per child.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum approved the mainstream banding proposal.

### **5 RIVER TYNE ACADEMY FIXED COSTS**

A report was presented highlighting the need for a Fixed Cost Formula review for River Tyne Academy (RTA) following the move from three sites to two. The Academy is now based at Millway and the old Ravensworth Terrace sites.

It was proposed that a sub-group of the Forum be set up to develop a fair and transparent fixed costs formula.

Volunteers for the sub-group were; Christina Jones, Michelle Richards, Brendan Robson, Andy Ramanandi and Steve Haigh.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum agreed to the forming of a Schools Forum sub-group to undertake a formula review of RTA's fixed costs and that interim arrangements be put in place until the new fixed costs are agreed and approved by Schools Forum.

**6 DSG REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22**

The Forum received a report on the budget for DSG for 2021/22. It was reported that there is an increase in the maintained schools budget share to £5.128m, an increase in the High Needs Block of £1.099m and a net reduction in the Central Services Schools Block of £0.032m.

It was requested that a breakdown on the High Needs Budget be provided and it was noted that this would be looked into for the next meeting.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum agreed the budget for 2021/22.

**7 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK CONSULTATION**

The Forum was advised that the DfE High Needs National Funding Formula Consultation was open for responses and that the deadline for any responses is 24 March 2021.

It was noted that the Local Authority will be responding to the consultation and the Forum was asked whether it wished to respond.

The Forum agreed to use the Local Authority response.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum considered the information in the report and agreed that a response be made in the Forum's name.

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that he would be stepping down from his role on the Forum when his term as School Governor ends in September.

**9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 May 2021 at 2pm.

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**TITLE OF REPORT: Growth Fund Allocation**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Schools Forum that there has been a successful application for Growth Funding which has satisfied all the growth fund criteria previously approved by Schools Forum.

**Background**

2. The Growth Fund Procedure has been in place since December 2014 and has been updated several times to reflect the changing circumstances of schools in Gateshead. The current procedure was approved by Schools Forum in November 2020.
3. The current criteria for the Growth Fund has been checked and passed for compliance by the Department for Education.

**Washingwell Primary School**

4. Washingwell Primary School made an application to the Growth Fund for funding for pupil growth from September 2021.
5. The school will have an estimated growth of 33 pupils between October 2020 and October 2021. The reason for this growth is that all other primary schools in the surrounding area are oversubscribed, it is not due to parental preference. The Admissions Team have allocated 13 children to Washingwell Primary School that did not rank the school in their application for a school place.
6. Reception to year 6 pupil numbers were 127 in October 2020, this is estimated to rise to 160 by October 2021, an increase of 26%. The primary thresholds for growth funding are an additional 16 pupils or 10% of the school roll.
7. In accordance with the Growth Funding criteria, the allocation is calculated as Age Weighted Pupil Unit \* pupil numbers \* 7/12

$\text{£}3,123 * 33 \text{ pupils} * 7/12 = \text{£}60,118$  capped at £40,000 for the period September 2021 to March 2022.

**Proposal**

8. That Schools Forum notes the application for Growth Funding by Washingwell Primary School and the allocation of £40,000 for additional pupils from September 2021.

## **Recommendations**

9. That Schools Forum notes that funding has been awarded to Washingwell Primary School for growth in pupil numbers.

### **For the following reasons: -**

- To provide funding for increased pupil numbers from September 2021
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**CONTACT: Carole Smith ext. 2747**

## Appendix 1

# GROWTH FUND PROCEDURE Updated for 2020/21

## INTRODUCTION

### GROWTH FUND INTRODUCTION

From 2019/20 the Dedicated Schools Grant contains a formula for growth funding in schools by comparing the most recent October pupil numbers to the previous October pupil numbers at the middle supper output level to calculate the growth in pupil numbers. Local authorities are able to either use some or all of this growth funding or add additional funding from the schools block to create a Growth Fund to support schools which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority or new schools. The Growth Fund can also support pre-opening and reorganisation school costs. The Growth Fund may not be used to support schools in financial difficulty. As the Growth Fund is within the schools block it is only available for pupils aged 5-15 in mainstream schools. It cannot be used to support growth for under-5 or post-16 pupils or special schools.

The Growth Fund is ring-fenced so that it is only used for the purposes of supporting growth in pupil numbers to meet basic need for the benefit of both mainstream maintained schools and academies. Any funds remaining at the end of the financial year can be rolled forward into the following year's growth fund.

**Any growth or expansion due to parental preference will not be eligible to be funded from the growth fund, i.e. if pupils could be accommodated in another primary school within a 2 mile radius of the growing primary school, secondary schools to be reviewed on a case by case basis.**

### GATESHEAD CRITERIA FOR ACCESSING GROWTH FUNDING

A growing school is defined as: -

- A school where there is a planned increase in Planned Admission Number (PAN), and which has not had the full set of admission in-take. For example, an increase in PAN in September 2019 may still be having an impact in 2025/26.
- A school where the capacity has been increased, with planned expenditure on buildings, which has been agreed/supported by the Local Authority.
- A school where an increase in pupil numbers has been agreed with, and specified by, the Local Authority as a consequence of a delay in the opening of a new school or implementation of a capital programme that would have increased the size of a neighbouring school.
- A school/academy carries out a formal consultation at either the request of or supported by the Local Authority to increase their PAN.
- A school that admits pupils above their PAN to accommodate pupil numbers within the Local Authority at the request or supported by the Local Authority
- Schools that admit pupils in year groups other than reception or year 7 because of a closing school at the request of or supported by the Local Authority

- A new school that has been created with the support of the Local Authority and takes children in for the first time in either reception or year 7

## PREDICTED OR ACTUAL GROWTH

Where the predicted numbers for a Primary School (excluding nursery classes) for the following September show an increase of more than 16 pupils or 10% of their total roll, due to basic need, that requires the running of an additional class, schools may be able to access additional funding.

Where the predicted numbers for a Secondary School for the following September show an increase of more than 40 pupils or 8% of their total roll (excluding Post-16), due to basic need, that may require the running of an additional class or higher than anticipated staffing levels, they may be able to access additional funding.

Where reception or year 7 numbers increase to the extent that an additional class or classes are required. These instances will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Where a school takes pupils not in reception or year 7 due to a closing school at the request of or supported by the Local Authority, there will be no lower limit on this number.

Where a school takes pupils over their PAN in reception or year 7, historic patterns of year 7 intake will be considered as well as children from other LA's.

Children moving school on a nonstandard date, (Start of the autumn term for all schools and start of spring term for reception age children), as these children will be captured in a schools mobility data.

## LEAD IN COSTS

New schools will be allocated an amount of £68,700 (2021/22) that can be used as the governing body see fit to fund any lead in costs and initial resources. This funding is in addition to the lump sum included within each school budget share.

To recognise that schools may require this funding prior to opening, funding is available to schools up to one year (three terms) in advance of the planned opening date. The funding will be phased as follows or paid in the term before opening as one payment:

- £20,000 three terms prior to opening
- £20,000 two terms prior to opening
- £28,700 the term before opening

In the event that the academy trust does not proceed with the new school and withdraws academy sponsorship, then any allocation made should be repaid in full to Gateshead Council within 10 working days of notifying Gateshead Council that the sponsor has withdrawn.

## FUNDING A NEW SCHOOL – BUDGET SHARE METHODOLOGY

To calculate the pupil led factors for a new school's budget share, data relating to pupils attending an existing local school deemed most suitable will be used. It could either be a school with the same or a similar catchment area or a school with anticipated similar characteristics. Business Partner – Schools in consultation with Education Gateshead and Schools Forum will decide the most appropriate data set to use.

## FUNDING FOR GROWTH

When applying for growth funding, schools will be required to provide evidence that an additional class or tutor group would be required to meet increasing numbers. (Views will also be sought from appropriate Education Gateshead officers).

Allocations will be calculated per additional pupil using the applicable AWPU rates for Primary, Secondary KS3 and Secondary KS4 pupils.

Amounts payable to maintained schools will be pro-rata for the 7/12th period September to March. Amounts payable to academies will be for the full academic year as academy budgets run from September to August. For new schools this will be dependent on their opening date.

An upper threshold will also be applied so no primary school can receive more than £40,000 and no Secondary schools more than £68,500 for the 7/12th period September to March and no Primary academy can receive more than £65,000 and no Secondary academy more than £111,400 for the full academic year.

For school receiving funding for taking pupils from closing schools not in reception or year 7 funding will be based on the average per pupil funding of that school. Maintained schools will receive 7/12<sup>th</sup> funding and academies for the full academic year.

Initial growth funding allocations would be based on admissions data and demographic forecasts to aid schools with budget setting (May/June). Where there is uncertainty or disagreement around the predicted pupil numbers, funding will not be allocated until receipt of the actual October census data.

The LA will undertake a mid-year review, based on the October Census, but no additional funding would be allocated to schools where funding had already been agreed unless actual growth was at such a level that significant additional costs had been incurred. In instances where schools had not qualified for additional funding based on the original estimates, additional funding would only be allocated if the school could demonstrate additional costs had been incurred to support the additional pupils.

In instances where actual growth was at lower levels than original estimates schools will not be subject to claw-back on any funding already allocated.

Where the growing school numbers require more than one additional class (numbers over 50) funding caps will be doubled.

## AMENDMENTS

It is possible to amend the criteria for allocating growth funding during the year where this becomes necessary, however the revised criteria must be submitted to the EFA for

compliance checking and must also be approved by Schools Forum before the revised criteria can be implemented.

## **Appendix A – Examples**

### **Primary School A - Growth Funding Example**

October Census 2018 195 pupils  
Predicted September 2019 Numbers (Based on Admissions data and Demographic Forecasts) 216 pupils  
Increase 21 pupils in reception  
Increase % 10.8%  
Growth Funding Allocation per Pupil £2,817.22  
Estimated Additional Funding (7/12ths- Sept 19 to Mar 20)  
£34,510.95, therefore would be funded at £34,510.95

### **Primary Academy B - Growth Funding Example**

October Census 2018 225 pupils  
September 2019 Numbers (Based on Admissions data and Demographic Forecasts)  
251 pupils  
Increase 26 pupils in reception  
Increase % 11.5%  
Growth Funding Allocation per Pupil  
£2,817.22  
Additional Funding (Full academic year) £73,247.72, therefore will fund at £73,247.75.

### **Secondary Academy D - Growth Funding Example**

October Census 2014 1,374 pupils

October 2018 Numbers (Based on Admissions data and Demographer's Forecasts)  
1,415 pupils  
Increase 41 pupils  
Increase % 3%  
Increase in KS3 31  
Increase in KS 4 10  
Growth Funding Allocation per KS3 Pupil £3,841.81 = £119,096.11  
Growth Funding Allocation per KS4 Pupil £4,385.81 = £43,858.10  
Additional Funding (Full academic year)  
£162,954.21  
Capped to overall limit  
£111,400

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