

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING

Thursday, 11 February 2021

PRESENT:

Ken Childs (Chair)	Special School Governors
Peter Lague	Trade Union Representative
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
Andrew Ramanandi	Primary Headteachers
Michelle Richards	Special School Headteachers
Domenic Volpe	Maintained Secondary Headteachers
Councillor Sheila Gallagher	Elected Member
Jacqui Ridley	Primary Governors
Elaine White	Diocese Representatives

IN ATTENDANCE:

Carole Smith	Gateshead Council
Claire Reid	Gateshead Council
Anthony Ward	Gateshead Council
Terence Appleby	Gateshead Council
Rosalyn Patterson	Gateshead Council

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Fowler.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

3 GROWTH FUND APPLICATIONS

A report was received informing the Forum of two applications for Growth Funding received.

Emmaville Primary School previously received funding as a growing school, however the increase of pupils between October 2019 and October 2020 was seven. Therefore this did not meet the growth threshold of more than 16 pupils or a 10% increase in pupil numbers.

Whickham Secondary School made an application due to pupil growth as the school had taken above its PAN at the request of the local authority. However, the increase of 13 pupils between October 2019 and October 2020 did not meet the threshold of more than 40 pupils of 8% of the total roll.

RESOLVED - Schools Forum noted that both applications for Growth Funding have been turned down and both schools have the right to appeal to a Subgroup of Schools Forum.

**Steve Haigh declared an interest in this item as CEO of Whickham Secondary School.*

4 HIGH NEEDS COMMISSIONED PLACES

The Schools Forum received a report on the proposed commissioning arrangements for High Needs Places for 2021/22.

It was noted that all special schools and the PRU will receive funding of £10,000 per commissioned place and ARMS will receive £6,000 per place for a pupil registered at the school plus mainstream funding for that pupil and £10,000 per vacant place. Data is gathered annually in October and the Forum was provided with the proposed commissioned places for 2021/22.

It was reported that there are no real changes other than an increase in places at Gibside because of their new build and pupils will be moving there in February half term.

RESOLVED - That the Forum noted the report.

5 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT - QUARTER 3

The Forum received the quarter three projected outturn position of DSG for 2020/21, up to the end of November 2020.

The DSG budget for 2020/21 is £105.673m and at quarter three the projected year-end outturn for the year was £104.958m, an underspend of £715,000.

The underspend relates to the Early Years Budget as it does not include the Spring Term. Also, the High Needs Budget has spent less than budgeted.

It is expected that the DSG reserves balance will increase to £1.729m at the end of March 2021, this takes into account for a clawback in relation to the 2019/20 Early Years adjustment.

It was suggested that an understanding is required as to the expected strain on SEN over the next six months across all sectors. It was noted that at the next meeting of the Forum, the 2021/22 budget position will be outlined so it will be evident what High Needs funding is available as it is expected to be a high pressure area as the country comes out of the pandemic.

RESOLVED - That the Schools Forum noted the content of the report.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 2.00pm.