

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REPORT OF SMT**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Cook**  
**Children & Young People – Councillor McCoy**

#### **AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS, SEN AND EARLY YEARS**

1. Summary

A report was presented to Cabinet in October 2016 which outlined a proposed strategy for investing in Schools, Early Years and SEN. This was following notification that the Council would be allocated £31m in 2018/19 and the strategy particularly gave consideration to capacity requirements. The Council has subsequently been notified of a further funding allocation of £6m which will be received in 2019/20.

This report develops the strategy and recommends proposals for a range of schools and establishments and includes investments in a number of academies and diocesan schools.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet approve the allocation of £37m of school capital funding to support:

- a. Expansion and development of Northfield School, Our Lady and St Bedes Academy, Ian Ramsey, Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth, All Saints Academy and Egglecliffe School.
- b. Early years provision
- c. SEN developments
- d. The potential to build on the good judgement of the Bishopton PRU
- e. The potential for improvement and expansions as part of regeneration schemes.

Cabinet agree to delegate the final allocation of £600k early years provision and £2.6m SEN Provision to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with Cabinet member and the Director of Finance and Business Services.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

**To continue to ensure that all children and young people in Stockton continue to benefit from education in high quality environments**

4. Members' Interests (the text below is fixed and should not be altered by the author).

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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**DETAIL**

1. The Council has already invested approximately £30m to increase capacity in our schools through Basic Need Grant and capital receipts from disposing of surplus sites. This in addition to working with a number of secondary schools to secure funding for building replacement schools.
2. The Council were allocated £31m and £6m as part of the Governments allocations for School Basic Need covering the period 2018/19 and 2019/20. Although this is intended for shortages in school places it is not ring fenced and there is therefore an opportunity to use some of the money to invest in schools where condition needs to be improved.

3. Members will be aware of the significant housing developments planned across the Borough and whilst it is difficult to plan around timescales, the strategy takes account of developments and also Section 106 contributions agreed.
4. Given the level of investment in primary school capacity, this report focusses on Secondary schools, pre-school, and SEN provision.
5. There is a significant opportunity to develop an investment plan to ensure that the capacity and of our schools is appropriate for the needs of the Borough and also potential to address some key condition and suitability issues.
6. A number of the proposals are associated with Academies and Diocesan schools and this demonstrates the Council's commitment to support Education improvement development and achievement irrespective of the Governance of the school.

### **Secondary Schools**

7. The report to Cabinet in October 2016 approved a strategy for investment in the areas where expansion and development is required.

#### Billingham / Wynyard

8. We have seen expansion in primary schools in Billingham and this will inevitably mean a subsequent pressure in the Secondary School sector. There is a requirement to increase numbers in the area by 60 per year group (300 places in total).
9. The Council have worked with Northfield School who have agreed an expansion and this will cost an estimated £5.7m and this should be complete in Autumn 2018.
10. In addition, there are significant levels of housing development in Wynyard, both within Stockton Borough and Hartlepool. A Primary free school has opened in temporary buildings and it is understood another is planned within developments in Hartlepool.
11. We are aware that there is interest in developing a secondary free school in this area and a proposal is likely to be submitted by the Durham and Newcastle Diocese in September for a school with a PAN of 180, and a capacity of 900, with the option of a sixth form. This would be funded and organised by EFA and applicant with no financial involvement from the Council. It is suggested that Cabinet would support this proposal in principle, subject to further consideration on the timescales for implementation, as current place planning would suggest that it would not be required until 2022/23, and should only expand to full PAN in line with new housing developments coming on stream.

#### North and Central Stockton

12. The report in October 2016 proposed the following developments over the medium to long term:
  - a. An expansion of Our Lady and St Bedes RC – 60 yr 7 places (total expansion 300) and included consideration of improvement given there are also some condition issues at this school)

- b. Outwood Bishopsgarth – 90 yr 7 places (total expansion 450 pupils – some reconfiguration will allow 150 places but expansion will be required)
  - c. Ian Ramsey – 63 yr 7 (total expansion of 315 pupils – there is some capacity in the existing buildings but it will require expansion to achieve this level of expansion)
13. Further work has been undertaken to consider the timing of developments and expansions and discussions have been held with schools. Whilst there is an immediate need for some expansion further expansion requirements are linked to the housing development in the area.
  14. The proposal which has been agreed with the schools concerned is to expand Our Lady and St Bedes immediately but to expand Outwood Bishopsgarth and Ian Ramsey in the future linked to the timing of developments in this area.
  15. There are significant condition issues with Our Lady and St Bedes and as part of the expansion it makes sense to address these issues. Despite the school being an academy and a Diocesan school, there is limited opportunity to access to support conditional improvement funding and some key issues around Health and Safety need to be addressed. The expansion itself is estimated to cost £3.2m but the allocation of an additional £1.8m would make a significant improvement to the condition of the school, and in effect sustain it for the next 10 years. The school and the Academy Trust are keen to expand the school and would be delighted and appreciative of the Council's investment in the school. This will require the relocation of Tees Valley Music Service and options are being explored.
  16. The timing of the expansion of Ian Ramsey and 'Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth' will be carefully monitored in relation to demand) and will be linked to the anticipated housing applications being approved and commencement of house building in the immediate area to the school. Current phasing suggest that this would be developed in 2020.
  17. There are Section 106 contributions which will be received in respect of the housing developments and this will be used to support these expansions. There may however be additional funding required and it is therefore proposed to earmark £2.5m of the funding to support these developments.

#### Ingleby Barwick / South of the Borough

18. Although the recent opening of the free school in Ingleby Barwick has reduced the pressure in the Ingleby Barwick area, there is still a shortage of places in Ingleby Barwick for Ingleby Barwick children. Given also the continued housing developments, this pressure will continue. The previous report recommended an increase in capacity for All Saints
19. Whilst in theory there is surplus capacity in Eaglescliffe and Conyers based on pupils in that area, in practice this will fill up through parental choice. Given the significant under-provision in Ingleby it is suggested that in order to assist with providing spaces for Ingleby parents to choose a local school we expand All Saints by 40 Year 7 places (200 overall).

## **Secondary School Suitability / Sustainability**

20. The majority of our secondary schools have had significant investment in recent years and are in good condition. There have been rebuilds at Grangefield, Ian Ramsey, All Saints, St Michaels and Northshore and investment in Northfield. If the improvements above are made to Our Lady and St Bedes, the school in real need of investment is Eggescliffe School. This was recognised as far back as 2008 where it was identified as a re-build as part of the BSF Programme. Unfortunately this programme was cancelled and subsequent bidding rounds to Government have been unsuccessful due to their focus on condition and not suitability. The school however is now in poor condition and needs significant maintenance work to windows, roof, alarm system. The key issue with the school however, is that the layout and space is not fit for purpose, it is not DDA compliant and whilst it is a high performing school it is a very poor learning environment.
21. The School has converted to Academy status and has had a long standing ambition for rebuild. As an academy, the only funding available is through the 'Condition Improvement Fund' and this is limited to bids of up to £4m (limited to 2 bids per year). It is worthy of note that the school have already accessed £500k to address urgent issues with windows.
22. Clearly, a bidding process over time would make a rebuild or even significant replacement very difficult. The schools have appointed advisors who have held discussions with senior EFA officials around using some of the Council's investment to match fund the EFA to bring forward a new build as an alternative to progressing a bidding route. These discussions are ongoing.
23. The school is made up of a main block / complex, which although in need of significant improvement is a good space and could be improved and re-used, and also smaller blocks around the school. It is the small blocks which are in very poor condition, not DDA compliant and are make lesson planning difficult and are problematic.
24. To demolish and replace these blocks would cost approximately £8m, with a similar amount needed to renovate the main block. It is therefore proposed that the Council invest in replacing the blocks as soon as possible and the school and Academy trust continue conversations with EFA to access funding to renovate the main block. This would have a transformational effect on the school and allow them to build on the excellent educational performance. A letter of support and appreciation from the Academy is attached.
25. Conyers school is in good condition but is one of the few schools without a hall. This can be resolved however at a cost of approximately £1m. There is a Section 106 agreement in place from previous agreed developments that would support this development, however this is not expected until 2023 and it is therefore recommended that the Council fund this up front and replenish this with whatever 106 is received.

## **Pre School Places**

26. The Council have a shortage of nursery provision across the Borough, and this has been exacerbated by the Government's policy to increase the offer to 3 and 4 year olds to 30 hours per week and the previous report provided details of the particular areas across the Borough.
27. The proposed works and associated funding requirements are outlined below:

- a. Expansion of High Flyers, Crooksbarrow, Priors Mill and St Marks. The total cost of these developments is estimated at £2.4m, however Government Grant has been secured to cover £1.8m of the cost and therefore £600k Council funding is required.
  - b. Members will be aware of the need to convert Fairfield Library to enable child care provision as well as continuing a library presence in the area and this is estimated to cost £400k. Tenders have been received, detailed design work will commence shortly and the anticipated opening date is April 2018, in line with our plan to increase provision to meet demand.
  - c. Expansion of Barleyfields and Redhill is estimated to cost £400k
28. Given that there are a number of further expansions required across the Borough, potentially within Private Nursery settings, it is suggested that we earmark a further £600k to support such developments, with the actual allocation delegated to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with Director of Finance and Business Services and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

#### Review of SEN

29. Members will be aware of the review of Special Educational needs provision and a report was approved by Cabinet in June outlining the changes to provision and the need for adaptations. This will require resources and whilst detailed planning is underway, initial estimates indicate that this will cost in the region of £2.6m. The Council has secured additional grant funding of £600k and £2m therefore needs to be allocated from basic needs funding. Again, it is recommended that the final allocation is delegated in the same way as outlined above.

#### Skills Academy

30. The Council has been working with Stockton Riverside College on proposals to expand its offer and to deliver an alternative curriculum for key stage 4 pupils in mainstream schools who would benefit from a more vocational curriculum offer. The basis of such an arrangement would be that pupils remain on roll of their mainstream school, but would access the offer at the Skills Academy as part of a personalised curriculum. This would support them to achieve better outcomes.
31. A number of schools already have their own arrangements in place with the Skills Academy in this way, but any expansion in the offer would require an expansion of the current skills academy building. The building was constructed with the potential to expand, and it is therefore proposed to allocate £1.2m to facilitate this development. Further details and a business case is currently being developed.

#### Primary Schools and PRU

32. The Council have invested significant resources to increase capacity and improve condition within primary schools. There are still however some condition issues and some opportunities to consider redevelopment as part of wider regeneration of activities and as such £6.6m will be earmarked, the drawdown being subject to a further report to Cabinet.

33. Further onsite improvement and potential additional capacity for the Bishopton Centre (Pupil Referral Unit) is also being considered following the recent 'good' judgement from Ofsted.

### **Summary of Proposals**

34. The overall proposed allocations can be summarised as follows :

Northfield School	£5.7m
All Saints	£3m
Our Lady and St Bedes	£5m
Egglescliffe	£8m
Conyers	£1m
Early Years	£2m
SEN	£2m
Skills Academy	£1.2m
Ian Ramsey / Outwood Bishopsgarth	£2.5m
Potential Primary Development / PRU	<u>£6.6m</u>
	<b>£37m</b>

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

This will benefit the schools and parents through increasing capacity which should also increase choice and options

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Approval of £37m spend on school improvements.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

This is considered low risk.

### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

**All Schools and Governing Bodies have been consulted and are in agreement with strategy. Detailed consultation on proposals will be undertaken with each school.**

**Name of Contact Officer: G Cummings / M Gray**

**Post Title: Director of Finance and Business Services / Director of Childrens Services**

**Telephone No. 01642 527011 / 01642 527043**

**Email Address: [garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk) / [martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:martin.gray@stockton.gov.uk)**