

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JULY 2019

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member - Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook
Lead Cabinet Member - Children and Young People - Councillor Lisa Evans

AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS, SEN AND EARLY YEARS – UPDATE

SUMMARY

A report was presented to Cabinet in September 2017 which proposed a strategy for investing in Schools, Early Years and Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND). This addressed capacity issues and improvements using funding allocated to the Council. In total £37.2m was allocated from Basic Need. The Council has subsequently been notified of a further funding allocation of £7.5m for 2020/2021 bringing total Basic Need funding to £44.7m. This report provides an update on works delivered to date, and recommends further proposals for a range of schools and establishments including academies and diocesan schools.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. Cabinet approve the revised programme outlined in paragraph 27 detailing allocation of £52.2m of which £44.7m is Basic Need funding with other contributions of £7.5m

DETAIL

1. The Council has been allocated and will have received a total of £37m as part of Government allocations for School Basic Needs funding by the end of 2019/20 with a further allocation of £7.5m to come in 2020/21. Although this is intended for shortages in school places it is not ring fenced and it has previously been approved to support an ambitious programme of improvements across the Borough to address suitability and condition where needed.
2. In addition there are a number of Developer contributions specifically for education expected linked to housing growth, whilst timescales are difficult to plan, this strategy takes account of developments and Section 106 contributions agreed.
3. Due to Primary School capacity being addressed in recent years, this investment plan focuses mainly on Secondary schools, pre-school and SEND provision.
4. The investment plan is a significant opportunity to ensure a number of proposals associated with Academies and Diocesan schools are supported with some additional contributions from the schools also. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to support Education improvement, development and achievement irrespective of the Governance of the school.

Secondary Schools – progress to date

5. The report to Cabinet in September 2017 approved a strategy for investment in the areas where expansion and development is required. In total £37m of basic need was approved across a range of projects outlined below.
6. To address the gap in secondary places in the Billingham area, work is now complete at Northfield School with the creation of a bespoke year 7 block which opened in autumn 2018. There is now capacity for 330 year 7 pupils increasing overall school capacity to 1650 places (additional 300 places). Within the funding allocated additional condition issues were addressed. Total investment is likely to be £5.5m against an original approval of £5.7m
7. The scale of potential housing development in Wynyard will require a new secondary school predicted pupil yield demand from approved housing. Cabinet have previously approved the support for a free school application with the timing linked to demand for school places. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have recently had an application for a 900 place secondary and sixth form free school rejected however it is expected this will be re-submitted in the future.
8. In Central Stockton planning area approval was given to expand Our Lady and Saint Bedes Catholic Academy to 1050 places (300 additional places) to address immediate capacity issues. Significant condition issues are also included and an allocation of £5m was approved. Work is being delivered in two phases. Phase 1 is the re-modelling of the former Tees Valley Music wing to allow for the increase in capacity. This has involved relocating the TVMS to Frederick Natrass Children's Centre building which has incurred additional costs. Other works ongoing include a new sports hall and school entrance. Phase 1 will be complete for spring 2020. Phase 2 will address critical condition works agreed with the Academy. This will be phased during school holidays to avoid disruption. Total investment is currently estimated to be £5.5m with £225k coming from the Academy.
9. There are number of significant investment projects agreed within the Ingleby Barwick/South of the Borough planning area to address both capacity and suitability.
10. Despite the opening of the free school in Ingleby Barwick, continuing housing developments both in Ingleby and south of the borough will lead to a shortage of places in Ingleby Barwick for Ingleby Barwick children. To support this, expansion of All Saints CE Academy to 900 places (additional 200 places) an approvals process with the school, academy trust and PFI provider is in place with ongoing discussions. Works are linked to the provision of the new Ingleby Barwick leisure facility however lengthy legal issues relating to the PFI process has meant both schemes have been delayed with school expansion not now being delivered in the main school until 2020. This has also lead to additional costs being incurred due to legal fees and the requirement to now provide temporary mobile classrooms on site for a year from September 2019 to cope with increased demand. Costs are now anticipated to be £3.2m an increase of £200k.
11. Although Conyers School is in good condition, funding was agreed to provide the school with a much-needed hall with flexible community space and improvements to changing facilities. Works have now been procured and will be completed by winter 2019. The school have secured £200k funding from Football Foundation and Sport England and £600k developer contribution has also been received. Total project costs is expected to be £1.3m with £500k approved from basic need.
12. The remainder of our secondary schools have all had significant investment in recent years and are in good condition. Given the significant investment being undertaken in Our Lady and St Bedes Catholic Academy, it was previously agreed that the only remaining school in need of significant investment was Egglecliffe School. The academy is in poor condition with a backlog of significant maintenance works. The key issue however is that the layout and space is not fit for purpose. An indicative allocation of £8m was previously approved by the Council as a

contribution to the re-build 50% of the school with the intention the Academy continued dialogue with the EFA to access a similar amount to renovate the main block.

13. To date work has started on provision of a new sixth form block which will be completed for October 2019. In addition detailed design works have being undertaken to look at options for replacing all the 8 separate individual blocks which are in extremely poor condition and are not suitable for delivery of the current curriculum. Estimated cost is £10.4m and while options are being reviewed with school it is unlikely that the costs will be reduced. It is proposed that the revised estimate is now included in the programme.
14. Eggescliffe Academy is continuing to lobby with the DfE for funding to address the remainder of the school but this is proving difficult.
15. Cabinet approved investment in the reconfiguration of Northfield School and disposal of the former Billingham Campus school site. An anticipated capital receipt from the sale of the site was approved to fund £2.2m of the works. Due to the uncertainty around timing of any future disposal it is recommended that this use of the receipt is replaced by basic need. Use of any future capital receipt will be subject to a further Cabinet report.
16. Further approved projects to increase capacity in Central Stockton area are linked to proposed housing developments as there is currently sufficient capacity to meet predicted future demand in the short term. Funding has been ear-marked and schemes will be delivered in line with demand and will include agreed Section 106 funding from developers. This phase is likely to include expansion works to Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth and Ian Ramsey CE Academy. Meetings have taken place and both schools are fully supportive of the programme. Detailed costs are not known at this stage but initial work has identified that an indicative allocation of £2.5m to supplement Section 106 monies will be insufficient and it is estimated that an indicative allocation of £5m will be required from basis need.

Pre School Places

17. £2m funding was previously approved to invest in providing quality nursery provision across the Borough to address the current shortage of places and to provide places in areas anticipated to be affected by the Governments introduction of the 30 hours offer to 3 and 4 year olds.
18. The above has funded expansion works at High Flyers, Crooksbar, Priors Mill CE and St Mark' CEs at a cost of £2m of which £600k was basic need funding. This has provided places to meet demand for the 30 hour provision.
19. Additional works have been undertaken at Fairfield Library at a cost of £300k to provide much needed additional nursery provision but which also retained a revamped albeit smaller library provision in the area.
20. A number of smaller schemes are currently on-going linked to demand.
21. Since the previous report to Cabinet, a subsequent report to Cabinet March 2018 approved the full demolition of Elm House linked to the Regeneration of the Victoria site. This included the demotion of The Star Children's Centre situated on the ground floor to the rear of the building. Funding of the original building was through 100% Sure Start grant and conditions of the grant allow for significant clawback if Centres are closed and not re-provided. Working in collaboration with Children's Service colleagues, it was agreed to re-provide a new Children's hub on a site at Tilery Primary. This investment of £500k supports the approved Children's Service's Strategy to ensure all children have the best start in life.

Review of SEND

22. A review of special educational needs & disabilities provision was approved by Cabinet in May 2017. Changes to the provision required a programme of adaptations to various sites agreed in the report. At the time Government announced a 3 year capital allocation of £200k p.a. to support this area and basic need of £2m was approved to support the full programme of works. Since then the government have announced a further 'one off' allocation of £400k which means, subject to approval, £400k basic need can be released to support other education investment.
23. Works completed funded via the £2m include adaptation works to primary schools - Junction Farm, Pentland, Preston and Billingham South have all being completed and are operational. Works to Northfield school have been completed. Works to Myton Park will be completed but delayed due to the PFI legal process. Scheme will be on site in July at Ashtrees with completion in January 2020. Further consultation is being undertaken with Egglecliffe School as part of a wider plan.

Skills Academy

24. Originally this project was to work with Stockton Riverside College to expand the current offer relating to the delivery of an alternative curriculum for KS4 pupils. Further analysis work has not supported an expansion project therefore this project will not proceed at this stage. Basic needs funding originally approved of £1.2m will not now be required for this scheme, though the college are involved in the development of proposals for alternative provision as below.

Future requirements/Indicative allocations

Bishopton Centre and alternative provision

25. In summer 2018 some minor modification/suitability works were undertaken at the Bishopton Centre to the KS2 building accommodating an additional 20 permanently excluded pupils from September. Consultation is currently underway lead by SEND Service and the Head/Chair of Governors to ascertain the requirement for Alternative Provision across the Authority. It is anticipated there will be a significant investment in the whole site once the scope of the project has been agreed.

Primary schools

26. The Council has invested significant resources to increase capacity and improve condition within primary schools. There are still however some condition issues and opportunities to consider redevelopment of buildings together with associated access to sport and leisure as part of wider regeneration of activities and as such the remaining basic need will be earmarked. In addition, there are a number of S106 allocation linked to provision of educational facilities which can also be included. Drawdown being subject to a further report to Cabinet.

Summary of proposals

27. The overall proposed revised allocations can be summarised as follows:

	Original basic need approved	Revised basic need	Other contributions	Estimated project cost
Northfield School	£5.7m	£5.5m	£0	£5.5m
Our Lady and St Bedes	£5.0m	£5.2m	£0.2m	£5.4m
All Saints	£3.0m	£3.2m	£0	£3.2m
Conyers	£1.0m	£0.5m	£0.8m	£1.3m
Egglescliffe	£8.0m	£10.4m	£0	£10.4m
Early Years	£2.0m	£2.5m	£0	£2.5m
SEN	£2.0m	£1.6m	£1.1m	£2.7m
Skills Academy	£1.2m	£0	£0	£0
Replace Capital Receipt previously approved	£0m	£2.2m	£0	£2.2m
Total Allocations	£27.9m	£31.1m	£2.1m	£33.2m
Indicative Allocations				
Outwood Bishopsgarth & Ian Ramsey	£2.5m	£5.0m	£4.4m	£9.4m
Pupil Referral Unit / alternative provision	£6.6m	£8.6m	£1.0m	£9.6m
Primary School Development				
TOTALS	£37.0m	£44.7m	£7.5m	£52.2m

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

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

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

30. Approval of the revised programme outlined in paragraph 27 detailing allocation of £52.2m of which £44.7m is Basic Need funding with other contributions of £7.5m

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

31. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

32. This (subject matter of report) is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

33. Given this report is an update on the overall School investment Programme it is not specific to an individual ward and no individual consultation has taken place.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

34. Cabinet report 14 June 2012 Capital Investment in Schools
Cabinet report 14 September 2017 An Investment Strategy for Schools, SEN and Early Years

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings
Post Title: Director of Business Services
Telephone No. 01642 527011
Email Address: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk