

Name: Cabinet
Date: 16 July 2019

Title of Report: 2019/20 to 2023/24 Council Capital Plan - Proposed allocation of capital funding from the Directorate for Children's Learning & Early Support baseline sections of the Capital Plan.

Purpose of report:

This report will identify potential schools' projects, for Member approval, to be funded from the 2019/20 to 2023/24 Learning and Early Support Special Provision grant and Basic Need baseline sections of the Capital Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes – this will result in capital expenditure significantly in excess of £250K
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private report)?	Yes
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Date signed off by the Service Director - Finance? Date signed off by the Service Director - Legal, Governance and Commissioning?	Karl Battersby - 08/07/2019 Eamonn Croston - 05/07/2019 Julie Muscroft - 05/07/2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Learning & Aspiration - Cllr Carol Pattison Corporate - Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: Dewsbury East, Dewsbury South, Greenhead, Newsome, Holme Valley North

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR implications arising from this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report will give an update on specific school based Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) capital projects, identified to be funded from the Learning & Early Support Special Provision government grant baseline section of the Council's Capital Plan. This report, asks that Members approve the allocation of further top-up SEND funding, announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in May and December 2018.
- 1.2 In addition, Members will be asked to approve the allocation of the capital required to fund new modular accommodation at Brambles Primary Academy and Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I Schools from the 2019/20 Learning & Early Support Basic Need baseline budget for New Pupil Places.
- 1.3 Members will also be asked to delegate authority to officers to manage the delivery of the proposed works within the respective project and programme budget envelopes.

2. Information required to take a decision

(a) Special Provision Grant

- 2.1 The DfE first announced the Special Provision fund on 4th March 2017 to support Local Authorities (LAs) to make capital investment in provision for pupils with SEND. £1.056m was allocated to Kirklees Council to be split equally over three years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 at a rate of £352k per annum.
- 2.2 On 29th May 2018, the DfE announced a £50m top-up across all LAs resulting in an additional allocation of £246k to Kirklees. A further £100m top-up was announced in December 2018 with another £492k for Kirklees, bringing the total capital grant available for the Council to £1.794m
- 2.3 As part of the conditions of the grant, all LAs were required by the DfE to carry out a high quality collaborative review of their high needs provision for children and young people in their local area with complex SEND by 31 March 2018. A detailed programme for expenditure of the grant was required as an output of the review.
- 2.4 On 20 March 2018 Cabinet approved the allocation of the Special Provision grant available at that time to three specific schemes that had been identified by the High Needs Review as the most efficient way of using the capital. These were schemes at Ravenshall School, Honley High School and Newsome High School. After the initial feasibility studies were undertaken, it was found that the estimated costs exceeded the notional budget allocated by Cabinet. However, the additional funding allocated by the DfE obviated the need to consider reductions in the aspirations or objectives of the projects.
- 2.5 In September 2018, work began on a detailed design and development process for all three projects. This report provides a final update on the funding and detail of each proposed scheme as outlined below:

(i) Ravenshall School

- 2.6 Ravenshall School caters for pupils with complex needs. The majority of pupils have complex learning difficulties combined with other special educational needs such as behavioral difficulties or Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). A number of students have more complex learning needs including sensory and physical impairments and specific learning difficulties.
- 2.7 Continued incremental growth has meant that the current accommodation and facilities are being stretched to their capacity. The objective of the initial proposals was not to increase the overall number of places in the school, rather to reduce class size so as to enable the school to meet the more complex needs of children identified through the High Needs Review data. The construction of an extension to provide additional classroom space was the initial preferred solution along with improving storage accommodation for pupil's mobility equipment and alleviating overcrowding during lunchtime in the dining hall.
- 2.8 Through consultation with the school and the Council's SEND Assessment and Commissioning Team (SENDACT), the project has evolved and now comprises of a two classroom extension and breakout space. The new accommodation will be timetabled so as to be accessible to all pupils. The courtyard adjacent to the dining hall will be roofed over so as to increase seating capacity. A new room will be created out of an adjacent external space walled on three sides next to the main entrance to provide storage accommodation.
- 2.9 The revised project has been estimated at **£525k** inclusive of all professional fees. As Ravenshall is part of the Council's Public Private Partnership (PPP) 2 contract with Pinnacle, the proposed capital works will be delivered through this contractual process. It is anticipated that the project will start on site in May 2020 and will be completed by November 2020.

(ii) Newsome High School

- 2.10 Newsome High School is a mainstream school for pupils aged 11-16. The school has around 85 SEND pupils, which represents about 15% of the total Number on Roll (NOR), slightly higher than the national average. There are well-established dedicated Hearing Impairment and Physical Impairment specialist provisions at the school, which are located separately on the ground floor, with both provisions offering fixed term and transitional places. The original proposal was to undertake improvements in teaching spaces, the creation of accessible WCs and storage solutions, with the school keen on a dedicated Alternative Provision (AP) unit.
- 2.11 Through consultation with the school and the Council's SENDACT Service, the project has evolved and the current proposal involves the conversion of two under-utilised Design Technology classrooms to a dedicated 'Front of House' for SEND students that will offer both social and teaching spaces. The existing hygiene accommodation will be doubled in size to ensure that pupils have high quality sanitary provision available during break periods. The upgrading of office accommodation will mean that staff will be able to easily carry out confidential work. The physiotherapy

room will no longer have to be a multifunctional space and can instead focus on each pupil's physical needs in an appropriately private setting.

- 2.12 The revised project has been estimated at **£450k** inclusive of all professional fees. As Newsome is currently a maintained school, it is intended that the project will be delivered through the Council's wholly owned Arms-Length Management Organisation Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) Property Services, with an expected start of site in summer 2019, and completion programmed for October 2019. The Council can award contracts to KNH without competition relying on the "Teckal" exemption in the Public Contracts Regulations.

(iii) Honley High School

- 2.13 Honley High School is a large mainstream High School. The school has a total SEND population of 250, of which 20 are within their Specialist Provision for Children and Young People with Communication and Interaction Needs. This represents a SEND cohort of 19% which is slightly higher than the national average. The Specialist Provision caters for those students with ASD who benefit from the additionality of dedicated staff, space and facilities that enable them to succeed in a mainstream school.
- 2.14 At present, the school has dedicated Specialist Provision rooms and students also use a room which is notionally part of the SEND/Inclusion portfolio, causing capacity issues. The preferred solution was to create a designated space that provided the flexibility for small group work, 1:1 support and break out space specifically for Specialist Provision which would ensure a clear focus on meeting the very significant and specific social and communication needs of these students.
- 2.15 The original focus of this project has not changed but extensive exploration and assessment of options has had to occur as Honley High is at capacity, with no spare or underutilised space. This has necessitated dialogue with various school departments in order to understand the potential curriculum implications of proposed room changes. The agreed scheme involves a careful and well thought through reconfiguration of space to create a new series of rooms allocated to Specialist Provision in a single area that has its own discrete access but is nonetheless integrated in with the mainstream school. In addition, a perimeter fence will be provided to protect students from traffic on the adjacent main road and permit SEND students to freely circulate and access the specialist provision.
- 2.16 The project at Honley High has been estimated at **£550k** inclusive of all professional fees. As this school is part of the Council's Public Private Partnership (PPP) 1 contract with Kirklees Schools Services Limited, the proposed capital works will be delivered through this contractual process. It is anticipated that the project will start on site in October 2019 and will complete in January 2020.

(b) Basic Need Funding

- 2.17 The LA has a statutory duty to secure sufficient supply of good quality school places and is provided with a Basic Need capital grant from the DfE to fund the required new pupil places. The Council's Five Year Capital Plan was approved by Council on 13th

February 2019 and allocated £500k per annum in the Learning and Early Support baseline from the grant to fund small scale basic need schemes. The following proposals relate to small scale changes for 2019/20:

(i) Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I School - Replacement Modular Building

- 2.18 At present, this school has a single temporary classroom sized for 30 pupils as part of its overall teaching provision on site. Due to the age and condition of the existing building, it is in need of urgent replacement. If this classroom is not replaced the school will have insufficient space to meet its planned admission number intake for September 2019. It is proposed that a new modular classroom capable of housing 30 pupils is purchased to replace the existing temporary unit, which will be demolished and removed from site. This will need to occur during the six week summer holiday in 2019 in order to be ready for the new school intake in September 2019. The tendered cost for this project is **£132k** including demolition and all professional fees.

(ii) Brambles Primary Academy School - New Modular Accommodation

- 2.19 Since September 2018 this 420 place (Two Form Entry) school has been housed in temporary modular accommodation in the grounds of Highfields Adult Day Centre, awaiting the construction of the new build school to be located on an adjacent playing field at Clare Hill, Edgerton. Ongoing delays with the pre-construction phase of the new build school means that an additional two classrooms for up to 60 pupils plus ancillary accommodation are required for September 2019. The tendered cost for this project is **£356k**. This accommodation will be re-used at another school once it is no longer required as the temporary home of Brambles Primary Academy.

(c) Financial Delegations

- 2.20 In order to aid the implementation of the above programme of work being funded from the Special Provision and Basic Need capital grants, Members are requested to delegate authority, in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules 3.16 dated June 2019, to the Service Director for Economy and Skills to manage the implementation of the identified works within the respective agreed total programme budgets.
- 2.21 The delegated powers would include the authority to transfer resources between schemes and within the overall programme budget to enable the successful delivery of individual projects. Any virements would be reported retrospectively to Cabinet in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 3.18.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

The SEND proposals will be part of a wider development programme to ensure that our specialist schools and settings are able to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND locally and in a timely fashion.

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

The proposals will provide more flexible accommodation to the identified schools and allow them to further personalise the curriculum offer for their pupils to ensure that they are able to make progress in all areas of the curriculum and transition successfully into adult life.

3.3 Improving outcomes for Children

The proposals aim is to improve the condition, suitability and/or quantity of space available at each identified school which will facilitate a higher level of personalisation of the curriculum to meet all the needs of the pupils who attend, leading to improved outcomes.

3.4 Reducing demand of services

The aim of the SEND proposals is to ensure that wherever possible, the majority of our children and young people with SEND can attend a local provision with the appropriate level of specialist support, thereby reducing the need for specialist provision outside of Kirklees, and enabling those pupils to remain within their local community.

3.5 Financial

All the projects identified in this report will be funded from capital grant provided by central government and therefore there are no revenue borrowing implications. The running costs of the individual provisions will be met through the Dedicated Schools Grant allocated in accordance with DfE rules.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 The High Needs Review was subject to extensive public and Member consultation and the outcomes were approved by Cabinet at meetings in February and March 2018. The new school for Brambles Primary Academy was subject to local member consultation and two planning applications – outline and full – during 2017 and 2018 and the provision of the modular accommodation has also been subject to the planning process during 2018 and 2019. The modular classroom for Hanging Heaton has also been subject to a previous planning process.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Subject to approval of the proposed schemes, officers from the Economy and Skills Service will ensure that the projects concerned are developed, designed, procured and implemented in accordance with the Council's Financial and Contracts Procedure Rules.

6. Officer Recommendation and reasons

Members are requested to:

- (a) Note the additional capital grant being provided by the DfE for Special Provision projects as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of this report;
- (b) Approve the proposed capital allocations for the stated projects at Ravenshall School, Newsome High and Honley High, which will be funded from the Learning & Early Support Special Provision grant baseline section of the Capital Plan and authorise the projects to be designed, procured and implemented within the overall programme budget of £1.794m;
- (c) Approve the capital allocations for the specific modular projects at Brambles Primary Academy and Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I School, to be funded from the Learning & Early Support Basic Need grant baseline section of the Capital Plan, thereby enabling the projects concerned to be implemented on site;
- (d) Consider and approve the request for delegated powers as detailed in paragraphs 2.20 and 2.21 of this report to the Service Director for Economy and Skills.

By approving these proposals the LA will meet its statutory need to provide high quality school places for all pupils and will improve outcomes for pupils with SEND.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

The Portfolio Holder for Learning and Aspiration supports the additional resources being provided for SEND pupils and the investment in new classroom provision needed to ensure that the LA meets its statutory duty to provide high quality additional school places and recommends that Cabinet:

- (a) Notes the additional capital grant being provided by the DfE for Special Provision projects as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of this report;
- (b) Approves the proposed capital allocations for the stated projects at Ravenshall School, Newsome High and Honley High, which will be funded from the Learning & Early Support Special Provision grant baseline section of the Capital Plan and authorise the projects to be designed, procured and implemented within the overall programme budget of £1.794m;
- (c) Approves the capital allocations for the specific modular projects at Brambles Primary Academy and Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I School, to be funded from the Learning & Early Support Basic Need grant baseline section of the Capital Plan, thereby enabling the projects concerned to be implemented on site;

- (d) Consider and approve the request for delegated powers as detailed in paragraphs 2.20 and 2.21 of this report to the Service Director for Economy and Skills

8. Contact officers

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9. Background papers and history of decisions

20 February 2018 Cabinet Report – Summary of findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review

20 March 2018 Cabinet Report – Recommendations from the Special Education Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review – Specialist Provision Capital Fund

11 December 2018 Cabinet Report – 2018/19 – 2020/21 Council Capital Plan – Proposed allocation of capital funding from Directorate for Children's Learning & Early Support baseline sections of the Capital Plan

Council 13 February 2019: Five Year Capital Plan

Brambles Primary Academy – Modular Accommodation – Application 2019/91268 – Approved 14th June 2019

10. Service Director Responsible

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