

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16th June 2020
Title of report: 2020/21 to 2024/25 Council Capital Plan – Proposed allocation of capital funding from the Directorate for Children’s Achieve and Aspire Strategic Priorities and Basic Need funding sections of the Capital Plan.

Purpose of report:

This report will identify potential schools’ projects, for Member approval, to be funded from the 2020/21 to 2024/25 Achieve and Aspire Strategic Priorities and Basic Need funding sections of the Council’s 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 <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision - Yes Public Report
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs - 4 June 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 3 June 2020
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 4 June 2020
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Viv Kendrick - Children (Statutory Responsibility for Children) Cllr Carole Pattison - Learning, Aspiration & Communities Cllr Graham Turner - Corporate

Electoral wards affected: Almondbury/Dalton/Denby Dale/
Dewsbury South/Greenhead

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public or private: Public

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

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report will provide information relating to specific individual school related capital projects identified to be funded from the Directorate for Children's Services Achieve and Aspire Section of the Council's Five Year Capital Plan, which was approved by Council on 12th February 2020.
- 1.2 Members will be asked to consider and approve the projects identified in the report, along with the highlighted capital allocation for each scheme.

2. Information required to take a decision

(i) Brambles Primary Academy – Temporary Modular Accommodation for September 2020 Intake

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the enforced delays to the start of construction of the new build Brambles Primary Academy on Clare Hill playing fields due to protracted legal challenges from a small group of residents. These issues continue to be worked through the appropriate legal and planning processes to resolution though some delay is now being experienced due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which is impacting on Court and Government decision making.
- 2.2 Work on the new school has now begun in the meantime with the creation of a temporary car park currently on site through the Council's Highways Service. The new build school has been retendered, with submissions currently being evaluated with a view to contract award in July/August and a start on site in September 2020. The completed school would be available for occupation from September 2021.
- 2.3 It is important to note that whilst the new build school has been delayed, Brambles Primary Academy itself opened as a new school in September 2018 in temporary modular accommodation within the grounds of Highfields Adult Day Centre. Additional modular accommodation was added in 2019 and regrettably the ongoing delay means that further temporary accommodation will need to be provided for the September 2020 intake. Hopefully, this will be the last occasion on which this needs to occur.
- 2.4 It is proposed that existing surplus modular accommodation from Oak CE (VC) Primary School will be transferred to the current temporary Brambles Primary Academy site at Highfields. This sizeable building will be fully refurbished in order to provide classroom, dining, curriculum support space and toilets for the school. Due to the increased pupil numbers on site an improved catering kitchen will be provided to ensure that the increased demand can be met and that the quality of the provision is equivalent to other schools. New external play areas will be formed with appropriate decking and canopies for the age group concerned.
- 2.5 The modular contract has been tendered and the lowest contractor has confirmed that the required timetable can be met and that works will be carried out in compliance with the current Government requirements in respect of Covid-19. Clearance of the classrooms and initial enabling works by the PPP Provider at Oak CE (VC) Primary will be completed by mid-June thereby enabling the transfer of the accommodation to Highfields for refurbishment before the start of the new academic year in

September. The total budget requirement is £402K, which will be funded from the Achieve and Aspire Strategic Priorities section of the Council's Capital Plan for the provision of the new Brambles Primary Academy.

- 2.6 Members should note that all modular accommodation being used at Brambles Academy Primary will be re-allocated to other maintained schools in Kirklees to replace existing temporary classrooms that are coming to the end of their economic life. New equipment and furniture provided for the temporary provision will also be recycled for use in the new build school where appropriate.
- 2.7 Members are requested to note the update provided in relation to the new build school and are requested to confirm the provision of further modular accommodation for the school in order to ensure that the September 2020 intake of up to 60 pupils can be housed in appropriate accommodation at a cost to the existing budget provision of £402K.

(ii) King James's Development to Increase Capacity
(Linked to Almondbury Community School Secondary Phase Closure)

- 2.8 At a meeting on 16th July 2019 Cabinet received a detailed report on the outcomes of the proposal to change the age range at Almondbury Community School. A decision was taken to change the age range of Almondbury Community School from 3 to 16 years to 3 to 11 years with effect from September 2020 and officers were instructed to work with local schools to ensure an effective transition to the new educational arrangements identified in the report.
- 2.9 It was acknowledged in the report that it would be necessary for the Council to work closely with King James's School in Almondbury to create 30 additional planned places from September 2020. This would translate overtime to an additional 150 secondary places at the school - i.e. 5-year groups with an additional 30 places – which represents an increase in the school's number on roll from 900 to 1050.
- 2.10 In order to achieve an expansion of 150 places there was an acceptance that capital investment would be required on the King James's site in order to deliver sufficient suitable accommodation to meet the curriculum needs of the expanded school population. Working closely with the Senior Management and Governors at the school a detailed feasibility study has been undertaken to assess the impact of the additional 150 places on the school and to identify the revised accommodation needs.
- 2.11 It is not possible for the additional places to be accommodated within the existing buildings therefore a new build is required. Due to the nature of the site and its continuous development over the decades, potential new opportunities to expand the school to cater for the additional intake are limited to a small number of locations. An option appraisal has demonstrated that the most appropriate location is the area where the school's existing temporary classroom accommodation is situated.
- 2.12 The existing temporary accommodation at the school consists of two double modular buildings providing four classrooms, which were installed as an interim measure around 12 years ago to cope with increased pupil numbers at the school. The modulares are now reaching the end of their economic life and need to be replaced with new build. The additional 150 pupils require five general teaching classrooms whilst one further classroom is required due to the loss of an existing teaching space

due to an expansion of dining needed to ensure that there is sufficient space for lunchtimes. In total this means that a ten classroom block with associated support spaces, toilets and ancillary space will need to be provided.

2.13 In addition to the new build teaching block, improvements will be required to the existing accommodation in order to alleviate pressures in a number of curriculum and well-being areas that will be created by increasing the number of pupils on site from 900 to 1050. Following discussions between the school, Children's Services and the Council's Capital Development and Delivery team the following improvements have been identified:

- Expansion of the undersized dining facilities into an adjacent classroom (which is replaced in the new build block) and an associated outdoor area;
- Provision of additional science facilities to enable the full curriculum to be delivered;
- Improvements to internal and external circulation

Design proposals to address these issues are currently being developed by our external architectural consultants.

2.14 The new building will be designed to be highly efficient from an energy perspective but given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration and the drive to comply with the new requirements of Part 25b of the Building Regulations, the installation of Photovoltaics (PVs) has been included in the design.

2.15 Detailed design works is currently occurring and this has indicated a budget requirement of £5.25m for the construction of the new block and the improvements to the existing accommodation. Although King James's is an Academy school, the Council will design, procure and project manage the works required at the school, working closely with the school's Senior Management team and Governors. Subject to Member approval of the project and budget, a planning application will be submitted in late June / early July and the project will be tendered during the summer for a start on site during autumn 2020. The new build accommodation and internal improvements should be ready for the new cohort of pupils in September 2021.

2.16 Members are requested to consider and approve the capital works proposed for King James's School in order to provide sufficient and suitable accommodation for 150 additional pupils at an indicative capital cost of £5.25m.

(iii) Almondbury Community School – Primary Provision in the Greenside Building (Linked to Almondbury Community School Secondary Phase Closure)

2.17 As part of the decision to lower the age range of Almondbury Community School from age 3-16 to 3-11, which was taken by Cabinet on 16th July 2019, it was acknowledged that it would be necessary for the Council to undertake some modest capital investment in the existing Key Stage (KS) 1 building to ensure that it was fit for purpose as a primary school. This is because the current KS1 building on Fernside Avenue, commonly referred to as the Greenside Building, will need to accommodate KS2 pupils as part of its conversion to a One Form Entry (1FE) 210 place primary school.

2.18 Following the cabinet decision, officers have been working closely with the Almondbury Community School primary lead and the Academy sponsor, Impact Education Multi Academy Trust (MAT), to identify the changes required to the Greenside site to enable it to accommodate 210 KS 1 and 2 pupils. In addition, consideration has been given to the consequences of housing a temporary but significant bulge in pupil numbers, mainly in KS2 (Years 4, 5 & 6). The provision of modular accommodation has been explored and discounted in conjunction with Impact Education MAT, with the agreed focus being on capital investment within the Greenside building for the long term benefit of the pupils.

2.19 As Almondbury Community School is part of the Council's Grouped Schools Public Private Partnership 1 contract (PPP1) with Kirklees Schools Services Limited (KSSL), an external architectural company has been procured through KSSL to design a package of works for the Greenside site. The proposed works include:

- additional age-appropriate toilets where necessary plus upgraded toilets to accommodate older year groups using the building;
- moving the nursery from the rear of the building to the front of the building to assist with nursery drop off/pick up and to enhance safeguarding;
- adaptation of the main hall (on a temporary basis) into a teaching space to accommodate the 'bulge' pupil numbers;
- an additional canopy around the Reception / Nursery area of school to contribute to outdoor learning where possible;
- opening up corridor and store-room space to enhance flow around the building and maximise the size of classrooms.

KSSL will manage the design, procurement and delivery of the works through the contractual variations process. It is estimated that the package of works including all furniture, equipment and professional fees will be around £250K, with completion of all works by the start of the new academic year in early September 2020.

2.20 The intention of the proposed works is to support and improve the environment for teaching and learning and will provide better safeguarding of the current site. Impact Education MAT believe that implementation of the proposals will strategically place Almondbury Community School (Primary) in a better position to accommodate all primary year groups during and after the current classroom capacity deficits, whilst at the same time investing in the future of the building/site.

2.21 In addition to internal building works, it is also acknowledged that the conversion to a primary school will result in a curriculum that will require more external provision e.g. additional physical games / PE for KS2 pupils. In support of this, there is a proposal to increase the current external red line boundary for Greenside into the adjoining playing fields that are part of the wider Almondbury Community School. The proposed increased boundary will allow for greater outdoor space and future development of teaching/sporting and outdoor play facilities. It also has the potential to increase car parking capacity for staff and visitors in the future.

2.22 All of the internal and external changes required will be delivered by KSSL through the PPP1 contract variations process. Alterations to the red line boundary will be implemented through the wider deed of variation legal process that will be implemented by the contract provider to reflect the overall changes to the buildings and wider site as a result of the longer-term changes to Almondbury Community

School. It is anticipated that a capital cost of around £25K will be incurred as part of the closedown and securing of the vacated secondary provision.

- 2.23 Members are requested to consider and approve the capital proposals arising from securing suitable accommodation for a 210 place primary school in the Greenside building and the costs incurred in the closedown of the vacated secondary school buildings. In total a budget provision of £275K is requested.

(iv) Netherhall Learning Campus High School

(Linked to Almondbury Community School Secondary Phase Closure)

- 2.24 The decision to close the secondary school phase of Almondbury Community School will have an impact on other secondary schools that are located on the fringes of the Almondbury Community school catchment area, some to a lesser extent than others. Whilst the majority of pupils will transfer to King James's School, it is estimated that approximately 50 pupils will either have already transferred or will transfer to Netherhall Learning Campus High School.

- 2.25 Netherhall Learning Campus can accommodate the additional pupils from Almondbury using existing accommodation, however it has been identified that the increased pupil numbers will impact on parts of the school that are already pressurised by the existing pupil cohorts. The main areas of concern are pressures around dining at lunchtimes, internal and external circulation around school and the layout of certain areas of the building that do not make maximise use of existing teaching space.

- 2.26 Working with the Senior Management of the school, a package of works has been identified to tackle the issues raised. These include:

- The provision of a dining pod and improvements to an external area for associated seating;
- Remodelling of accommodation to provide enhanced teaching and staff facilities;
- The re-location of a Nurture area;
- Improvements to internal and external circulation through changes to doors, entrances / exits and a magnetic hold back system, which will also improve Safeguarding provision.

The works will be programmed for summer 2020 subject to Cabinet approval.

- 2.27 This school is part of the Council's Grouped Schools PPP1 Contract with KSSL, hence the PPP1 Provider will manage the design, procurement and delivery of the works through the contractual variations process. It is estimated that the package of works including all furniture, equipment and professional fees will be £200K.

- 2.28 Once completed the school will have sufficient suitable accommodation to increase its Published Admission Number permanently by a minimum of 15 places subject to the usual admissions consultation process. Members are requested to approve the proposed works and budget allocation of £200K.

(v) **SEND Schools - Potential Sites Masterplan**

2.29 The Council's Capital Plan, which was approved by Council on 12th February 2020, contains a funding envelope of £28m to address the need for a significant expansion of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places across Kirklees as identified by a High Needs Strategic Review which was recently undertaken by the Council's Children's Services.

2.30 This review demonstrated clear evidence that extensive capital investment is required in the Kirklees SEND education system to provide a significant increase in specialist school places for learners with:

- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) issues– Between 54 -69 additional places over the next four years;
- Alternative Provision (AP) – 120 new places;
- Complex Communication and Interaction Needs (CCIN) and Autism – Between 37- 67 additional places over the next four years.

In addition around 36 additional post 16 places in total will be required for pupils with SEMH and CCIN needs.

2.31 In order to explore how best to deliver the SEND expansion of specialist school places required over the period 2020-2023, Officers commissioned through a tender process an external architectural practise to undertake an option appraisal of four sites within the borough – two existing special school sites and two potential new sites - to test and develop a number of options for the provision of the additional places required.

2.32 A high level master plan report is due for completion at end of June 2020 which will identify a number of options for consideration by officers and members, with a view to progressing one or more preferred options into a detailed appraisal around individual sites that will consider the suitability and deliverability of each proposal. The expectation is that the first new build school arising from this study could start on site in around 18 months subject to a full report on the SEND proposals being brought to Cabinet for consideration during autumn 2020.

2.33 The Council's Capital Plan includes a budget of £511K for development of projects arising from the Kirklees High Needs Strategic Review. The initial cost of the masterplan has been £35K plus internal project management fees on a time charge basis to manage the commission. The detailed option appraisal(s) that represents the next stage of the process over the next 3-6 months has an indicative budget of £150K to be funded from the stated development budget in the capital plan.

2.34 Members are requested to note progress on the SEND Masterplan and authorise the identified expenditure to develop initial proposals arising from the masterplan further with a view to returning to Cabinet with a detailed report in autumn 2020.

(vi) **Proposal for Post-16 Provision at Ravenshall Special School**

2.35 Ravenshall School caters for pupils with complex learning difficulties combined with other Special Educational Needs (SEN) such as Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

A number of students have more complex learning needs including sensory and physical impairments and specific learning difficulties.

- 2.36 Since the introduction of the Children and Families Act 2014, there has been a national increase in the number of children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) – the increase in Kirklees has been 25%. Additionally, EHCP plans can now be in place until the young person reaches 25 years of age, thereby seeing a further increase in demand at post 16.
- 2.37 The majority of young people with SEN attend Kirklees College (approximately 560) whilst small numbers attend New College and Greenhead. There is an urgent need to ensure that we have sufficient choice and breadth of provision within Kirklees for these learners to attend. For those learners who require a more intensive, bespoke offer, there are post-16 provisions at Woodley Special School (Complex Communication and Interaction Needs), Castle Hill Academy and Fairfield Special School (Profound, and Multiple Learning Difficulties - PMLD), and Ravenshall Special School (Complex Needs). Some learners with Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMHD) attend post 16 provisions at our Alternative Providers – Brian Jackson College and Employability Solutions whilst Pivot Academy is considering the establishment of a post 16 offer.
- 2.38 As demand for post-16 places have increased since the change to legislation, our data has identified the need for a further post-16 provision for learners who need a similar curriculum to the one offered at Ravenshall, with an emphasis on independence training and life skills, and who may require slightly longer here before they can access mainstream providers like Kirklees College.
- 2.39 A specification for the additional provision was drawn up in partnership with our six special school head teachers, who have been proactive in working with the Local Authority. Two schools expressed an interest in hosting this provision and a site search was initiated with a requirement that any successful site had to be near to one of the schools in order to prevent the need for extensive travel between buildings. The former Thornhill Lees Library and Information Centre was identified as being available and within a short distance away from Ravenshall School.
- 2.40 During the academic year 2019-20, Castle Hill and Ravenshall have been working together to provide an interim post-16 provision for this year's cohort while an appropriate building is made ready for the start of academic year 2020/21. Neither school has sufficient space for the existing cohort and so they are working together to ensure a smooth transition from September 2020 into new premises – planning a curriculum, jointly delivering and visiting each other so that the two cohorts become familiar with each other. This arrangement can only last for this academic year as in the next academic year there will be a further cohort to accommodate and additional pressure on the two PMLD schools for placements. It is therefore essential that the additional provision in new premises is up and running for the start of the 2020/21 academic term in early September 2020.
- 2.41 A scheme has been developed in conjunction with Ravenshall School to refurbish and remodel the former Thornhill Lees Library Information Centre accommodation for post 16 provision as it is an appropriate size and location for the needs of the learners. The building is also occupied by the Thornhill Community Centre and appropriate

adjustments to the lease arrangements have been agreed and are being progressed through Legal Services.

- 2.42 The proposed works include the creation of age appropriate teaching spaces, separated by a high quality acoustic screen to provide flexibility of learning styles, a commercial-style catering kitchen to help provide life skills and engagement with the community, a sensory learning space for use in home management life skills lessons plus toilets, staff accommodation and a separate school entrance to ensure robust safeguarding procedures can be implemented.
- 2.43 Following a negotiation process, it is proposed that the Council's KHN Property Services undertake the works starting in June for completion during the summer holidays. The cost of the project including all works, furniture, equipment and professional fees is £151K. Funding will be provided from the Achieve & Aspire One Off projects allocation of £511K for projects arising from the Kirklees SEN High Level review of future needs.
- 2.44 Members are requested to consider and approve the location of the new post 16 provision for Ravenshall School within refurbished accommodation at the former Thornhill Lees LIC at a capital cost of £151K.

(vii) Scissett Middle School

- 2.45 The 2018 Kirklees School Place Planning Document identified the need for 'a modest expansion of middle school places' in the Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Shelley school planning area. Scissett Middle School has the classroom space to increase its Published Admission Number from 195 to 200 per year group which would result in an additional 15 pupil places subject to the usual admissions consultation process. However, the school already has dining pressures which are linked to limited indoor Physical Education facilities and a shortage of usable outdoor hard surfaces for wet weather use.
- 2.46 To address these challenges and facilitate the increase in places the Council's Landscape Architects Service have worked with the school to identify works to extend an outside play area, make improvements to an existing Multi Use Games Area to allow increased all weather use, install external canopies and provide outdoor dining furniture. This has been estimated at a total cost of £210K including all professional fees and contingencies.
- 2.47 If approved, the Council would fund the proposed works using Section 106 Developer contributions allocated to providing additional school places within the vicinity of the developments. The current evidence indicates that there are no other additional places needed in the area at this time and further section 106 contributions are expected to help address future needs should they arise.
- 2.48 Members are requested to consider and approve the use of Section 106 contributions to deliver additional school places at Scissett Middle School at a cost of £210K.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Should the proposals be approved, officers will work in close partnership with the schools and staff to ensure the delivery of excellent facilities that will help secure the outcomes for children both now and in the future.

3.2 Working with Partners

In preparing the proposals for King James's, Almondbury Community School (Primary), Netherhall Learning Campus High School, Brambles Primary Academy and Scissett Middle, Children's Services and Capital Delivery officers have worked closely with the Senior Management of each school and their respective Academy representatives to agree a package of works for each school. For example, at Almondbury Community School (Primary) Impact Education Trust has worked closely with Senior Managers at the school and Council Officers to develop and agree the scope of the building improvements. The package of works at Ravenshall School has been drawn up and agreed with the Head teacher of the school.

The SEN Masterplan has been produced in collaboration with Special School representatives who have played an active part in the tender process for the selection of the architectural practise and who have been consulted by the successful practise during the development of the initial phase 1 masterplan document.

3.3 Place Based Working

Schools are at the centre of their communities, delivering essential educational, health and well-being activities for children, parents and the wider community. The proposals in this report will deliver high quality school places to meet the needs of local pupils and will ensure that learners with SEND have access to a range of specialist provision across a variety of settings.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The new build accommodation being provided will be constructed using modern, energy efficient materials and equipment that will contribute to an ever reducing carbon footprint for the Council and conform to the requirements of Part 25b of the Building Regulations. Where applicable, opportunities will be taken to install green technologies such as PVs at King James's.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The proposals in this report are intended to improve outcomes for children by providing access to high quality facilities that enable the full breadth of the curriculum offer to be delivered thereby ensuring that young people have the widest opportunities to fulfil their aspirations and ambitions.

3.6 Financial implications

The modular accommodation for Brambles Primary Academy will be funded from the existing capital provision within the Council's Capital Plan for the new build school.

The proposals for King James's High, Almondbury Community School (Primary) and Netherhall Learning Campus High School will be funded from existing multi-year council capital plan resources and will be formally incorporated into the forthcoming Council 2019/20 financial outturn and rollover report which will include a re-fresh of the Council's multi-year capital plans.

The SEN Masterplan and works for Ravenshall Special School will be funded from the existing capital allocation for developing and implementing proposals arising from the High Needs Strategic Review of SEND provision.

The package of improvements for Scissett Middle School will be funded from Section 106 contributions relating to developments in the vicinity.

4 Consultees and their opinions

The Almondbury Community School Secondary phase closure was subject to extensive public and Member consultation as detailed in the cabinet report "Future Options for Almondbury Community School – Final Decision Report" considered by Cabinet on 16th July 2019.

The High Needs Strategic Review was also subject to extensive public and Member consultation as detailed in the cabinet report "Summary of findings from the Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) High Needs Strategic Review" which was considered by Cabinet on 20th February 2018.

The new school for Brambles Primary Academy was subject to local member consultant 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, 2019 and 2020.

Local Ward Members have been informed of the proposed development of a post 16 provision for Ravenshall Special School in the former Library and Information Centre at Thornhill Lees and the proposals for Scissett Middle School, with no objections received.

5 Next steps and timelines

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 recommendations and reasons

Members are requested to:

- (a) Consider and approve the proposed capital allocation of £402K for the provision of modular accommodation for Brambles Primary Academy to ensure that there is sufficient space for the September 2020 intake;

- (b) Consider and approve the proposed capital allocation of £5.25m for the implementation of new build and remodelling works at King James's School to enable the provision of 150 additional secondary school places;
- (c) Consider and approve the proposed capital allocation of £275K for the implementation of a package of works required to ensure that the Greenside Building at Almondbury Community School (Primary) is fit for purpose for a 210 place primary school;
- (d) Consider and approve the proposed capital allocations of £200K for the implementation of a package of works to enable the existing accommodation at Netherhall Learning Campus High School to be adapted to accommodate increased pupil numbers and implement a PAN increase of 15 places;
- (e) Consider and approve the proposed capital allocations of £151K for the conversion of the former Thornhill Lees Library and Information Centre to a post 16 centre for Ravenshall Special School;
- (f) Note the progress and expenditure incurred to date on the development of an SEN Masterplan to deliver additional specialist SEND places across the system in Kirklees and approve the expenditure of £150K of further development funds to enable the masterplan to move into a phase 2 study;
- (g) Consider and approve the proposed use of Section 106 funds to implement a package of works at Scissett Middle School at a cost of £210K to enable its PAN to increase from 195 to 200.

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

7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

We are delighted to support the proposals in this report which bring significant investment in our local education system, supporting our schools for the benefit of Kirklees children and their families.

Investment in local provision for children with Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) is sorely needed and this proposal for post 16 provision is small but important in our overall ambition for high quality local SEND provision in Kirklees.

There are a number of schemes included in this report relating to schools in South Huddersfield which collectively provide a once in a generation opportunity for investment to ensure there is a choice for parents of high-quality fit for purpose education provision.

Our absolute priority in bringing forward these proposals for Almondbury Community School was to help children and young people fulfil their potential. We want all children to have the best start in life and to benefit from excellent standards of care and education, both now and in the future.

We said we would work with King James's School to create additional places and we said we would invest in the Greenside (Key Stage 1) building at Almondbury Community School and the proposals in this report deliver on these promises.

We said that no children would be left without an alternative pathway for continuing their education and we have continued to work with the strong family of schools in the area to offer a school place which matches parents' preferences. On top of the investment already made at Newsome High School, the proposals for King James's School and Netherhall Learning Campus will enhance the facilities available for local pupils now and for generations to come.

So we are happy to recommend that Cabinet considers and approves the officer's recommendation set out at Section 6 of this report.

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.

16th July 2019 – Cabinet report - Future Options for Almondbury Community School – Final Decision Report.

12th February 2020 - Council – Approval of Five Year Council Capital Plan.

10 Service Directors responsible

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