

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property Urgent Decision

7 April 2017

Special Educational Needs (SEND) Provision

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder agrees to the allocation of Basic Need capital funding for the addition of SEND facilities as proposed in Section 2 of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council has a statutory responsibility to secure sufficient school places, including providing appropriate education provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.2 Analysis of current services and demand has identified remaining gaps in Warwickshire's SEND provision across the County. These gaps in provision were driving historical increases in the placement of pupils in costly out-of-authority provision that led to significant overspends of £4.6m on the High Needs Block (HNB) in 2014-15 as well as driving unsustainable levels of spend on school transport.
- 1.5 Development of new SEN provision over the last 18 months has made significant headway in addressing these overspends, further work is planned to address the remaining gaps.

2.0 The Proposals

- 2.1 New specialist provision attached to mainstream schools has proved able to meet the needs of many complex learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Communication and Interaction needs whilst remaining in their own communities.
- 2.2 Warwickshire has developed a model of provision based on best practice and refined by local experience that can accommodate up to 10 learners in secondary and up to 8 learners in primary on a mainstream school or academy site.
- 2.3 The priority is to develop such provision on 3 to 4 school sites across the County as follows:
 - 2 in South Warwickshire at primary-phase schools in the Studley *and* Shipston areas

- 1 in the Rugby area on a primary school site
- 1 in North Warwickshire at a secondary school site

2.4 Negotiations are at an advanced stage with head teachers and governing bodies of schools in each of these areas and the developments and are likely to cost between £50,000 to £75,000 each. The total cost of this proposal for 3/4 new provisions is £250,000.

It is proposed to allocate capital basic need £250,000

3.0 Funding

3.1 Allocations of basic need capital grant funding from the Department for Education were notified to the authority in February 2016. Allocations are paid annually and are not available for expenditure until the start of the financial year within which they are received.

3.2 Available capital basic need funding was outlined in report to Cabinet on 9th March and is outlined below:

Breakdown of funding:

Capital available 2016/17	£1,137,000
Capital Basic Need 2017/18	£7,863,000
School Condition Allocation	£625,782
Developer contributions outlined within report	£238,585
Contribution from school	£9,000
Total funding	£9,873,367
Total expenditure	£2,788,101
Capital balance	£7,085,266

(expenditure subject to future report)

3.3 Projects included in the previous report to Cabinet on 9th March are set out below:

School name/Project	Basic Need Funding	Developer Contribution	School Contribution
Ettington Primary School	£40,000	£50,000	
The Ferncombe Primary School	£400,000		
Woodlands Primary School		£10,000	£9,000
Welford On Avon Primary School	£1,400,516	£99,484	
Paddox Primary School SISG	£300,000		
Coten End Primary School	£150,000		
Knightlow Children's Partnership		£50,101	
Bridges Childcare	£50,000		
Planning and Development Block Header	£200,000		
Stratford-Upon-Avon High School		£29,000	
Total			£2,788,101

available resou

- 3.4 The report to Cabinet in March omitted to see Cabinet approval for the allocation of Basic Need Funding of £250,000 referred to at section 2 above. The Chair of the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that this portfolio holder decision is urgent in view of the need to commence work. This decision will, therefore, take immediate effect.

Background papers

None

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This report was circulated the following councillors prior to publication:

Councillor Alan Cockburn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision.
Councillor Colin Hayfield, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning

Chair and Spokespersons of the Resources, Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Cllrs: Matt Western, Phillip Morris Jones, Nicola Davies, Dave Parsons, Clive Rickhards, Chris Williams.