

Portfolio Holder Decision

12 November 2021

Bridgetown Primary School

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Date of decision	12 November 2021
	Signed

1. Decision taken

1.1 The addition of £26,021 of S106 funding to the Capital Programme, in addition to the £38,103 previously agreed (Cabinet, December 2020) to fund alterations to create a new nurture space at Bridgetown Primary School with access to outdoor space, a disabled toilet and kitchenette.

2. Reasons for decisions

2.1 Bridgetown Primary School currently supports the needs of a significant number of children with complex special educational needs many of whom have associated social, emotional and mental health needs. The nurture team support the children through structured nurture group sessions and also via 1:1 nurture support. There are three members of staff trained to deliver nurture sessions but to run this nurture provision effectively, the school lacks the appropriate space and facilities.

2.2 To create a spacious, welcoming library for all to access, to promote and encourage the pleasure of reading.

2.3 To develop new facilities to meet emotional, social and mental health challenges for vulnerable children and children with special educational needs (the school has more than 10% of pupils on the SEN register and an increasing number of pupils requiring top-up funding to support Educational Health Care Plans).

2.4 Providing a separate, safe space where these pupils can feel comfortable and relaxed and be able to access a 'home-like' environment, thus following the structured programme recommended by Nurture UK.

2.5 This proposal supports the WCC SEND & Inclusion Change Programme's ethos of supporting pupils with SEND within mainstream settings.

2.6 The S106 developer funding requested is allocated for use specifically at this

school or one other nearby school only. Remaining S106 funding for these schools will be allocated following consultation with both schools and the usual governance processes.

3. Background information

3.1 In early 2020, Bridgetown Primary School proposed capital works to improve the existing school facilities and develop new facilities for vulnerable children and children with special educational needs, with a particular focus on those learners with social, emotional and mental health needs. Developer funding (S106) of £31,093 plus £7,010 school contribution for the proposal was approved by Cabinet in December 2020 which included:

- Reconfiguring provision, inside and outside, to make available space for additional pupils to benefit from nurture provision and facilities.
- Re-purposing the existing library which is used less frequently than the current nurture space so that it can better meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Create the space for pupils using the nurture provision to make food, eat and safely access facilities to teach pupils the skills they need to increase independence.
- Creation of a new, replacement library in a central part of the school for all to access.

3.2 In January 2021, WCC Property Services visited the school to initiate the project works, at which time the requirement for a disabled toilet and kitchenette was added to the scope of works.

WCC Property Services liaised directly with the school for the initial specification, the disabled toilet and kitchenette were not included originally as the school did not specify a need for them. When the second visit was made by property services (in early 2021 post Covid lockdown), the potential for these elements to be included was then raised and the scope increased.

3.3 This Capital Request is for the **additional £26,021** required to deliver the previously approved nurture provision, as a result of the enhanced specification.

3.4 The S106 funding applied for is for 'enhancing shared and community facilities' at Bridgetown Primary School and another nearby school, (Alveston Primary) only. Funding will be made available from the same source to the other school as appropriate.

4. Financial implications

4.1 £26,021 (in addition to £31,093 of S106 and £7,010 to be contributed by the school previously approved by Cabinet)

4.2 The S106 developer funding requested is allocated for use specifically at this school or one other nearby school only.

5. Environmental implications

None

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Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?

No

Confidential or exempt?

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?

No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin, also Cllr Morgan for information

Corporate Board – November 2021

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – n/a

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – n/a

Local Member(s): n/a