

Cabinet

15 June 2023

Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision at four Infant/Primary Schools

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the establishment of specialist resourced provision at the four schools set out in Section 3 and approves the following additions to the capital programme to deliver the prescribed alterations required:
 - a) For Abbey CofE Infant School, an addition to the capital programme of £0.048 million to be funded from the High Needs Capital Grant;
 - b) For Goodyers End Primary School, an addition of £0.089 million to the capital programme to be funded from the Special Provision Fund and the High Needs Capital Grant;
 - c) For St Andrew's Benn CE Primary School, an addition of £0.028 million to the capital programme to be funded from Developer Contributions;
 - d) For St Matthew's Bloxam CE Primary School, an addition of £0.026 million to be funded from Developer Contributions; and
- 2) Authorises the Strategic Director for People to invite tenders and to enter into any agreements necessary to deliver the provisions approved on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In order to meet forecast demand and build on the local offer of specialist provision, Warwickshire County Council is continuing the development of specialist resourced provision across the county. This provision enables pupils who are cognitively able to access the curriculum to have their needs met and benefit from being located on site alongside a mainstream school environment. The main areas of growth and investment continue to be in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. The demand for this specialist provision is expected to continue to rise, with the level of demand anticipated to be highest in Nuneaton & Bedworth and Rugby.
- 1.2 Warwickshire County Council remains committed to the strategy of developing specialist resourced provision as a bridge between specialist and mainstream

schooling. The opening of this type of provision is a feature of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

- 1.3 There are currently 12 specialist resourced provisions attached to mainstream primary provision in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 3 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 3 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 3 in the Stratford on Avon area.
- 1.4 Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish four specialist resourced provisions in Rugby and Nuneaton and Bedworth with implementation for September 2023, as outlined in Section 3.
- 1.5 Pupils in the specialist resourced provisions will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.
- 1.6 The establishment of the specialist resourced provision will not impact on the school's current published admission numbers. Admissions to the specialist resourced provisions follow a different procedure from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the specialist resourced provision will be through the Warwickshire County Council process for specialist admissions which is dealt with outside of the standard admissions process.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Basic Need capital grant balance for 2022/23 has been fully allocated to projects within the Capital Programme. The Basic Need capital grant allocation for 2023/24 is **£40.850 million**, of which **£10.077 million** remains unallocated. The Department for Education has confirmed the Council will receive **£21.366 million** in 2024/25.
- 2.2 The Service holds resources for school investment which are not currently included in the approved Capital Programme, this is largely from the following:
 - confirmed yet unallocated Basic Need grant to be received up to 2025/26,
 - other grants/contributions held for specific purposes,
 - developer contributions currently held but unallocated; and
 - one historically earmarked capital receipt.

| Available Resources (unallocated) | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Basic Need Grant | 10,077 | 21,366 | 0 | 31,443 |
| High Needs Grant | 364 | 0 | 0 | 364 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Schools Condition Allocation | 2,197 | 0 | 0 | 2,197 |
| Special Provision Fund | 41 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| s.106* | 56,700 | 0 | 0 | 56,700 |
| Earmarked Capital Receipts | 2,113 | 0 | 0 | 2,113 |
| | 71,492 | 21,366 | 0 | 92,858 |

** The s.106 balance consists of funds the authority currently holds in cash as received from developers but is linked to over 200 separate s.106 agreements and, therefore, flexibility of funding is limited to the conditions of the individual agreements.*

- 2.3 The project costs outlined within this report total £0.192 million of which £0.041 million is from the Special Provision Fund, £0.055 million is from developer contributions and £0.096 million is from the DfE High Needs grant. These allocations will result in a remaining High Needs grant balance of £0.316 million.
- 2.4 Pupil places in the specialist resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that the additional learning needs of those pupils can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.
- 2.5 The establishment of specialist resourced provision ensures that where possible, more learners with an EHCP can be taught alongside, and within, a mainstream school environment. This has educational benefits for those pupils whilst also assisting the Council to better utilise the limited funding available through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as it allows those learners for whom the provision is appropriate to be placed in more cost-effective provision. The establishment of specialist resourced provision across the county further increases the range of SEND provision available to meet the needs of children, particularly those children with significant additional needs but able to access a mainstream curriculum.

3. Proposals for Prescribed Alterations

Abbey CofE Infant School, Nuneaton

- 3.1 Abbey CofE Infant School is a 2FE infant school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding', with 180 places for children aged 4-7 years.
- 3.2 Abbey CofE Infant School has been identified as having pupils with high need which a specialist resourced provision could support whilst further supporting sufficiency in the area and an existing space that can be adapted for September 2023. It is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an education, health and care plan whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.3 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at Abbey CofE Infant School, a 4 week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 26th April 2023 and 24th May 2023.

Details were published in the local press and on the WCC website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Nuneaton and democratic representatives in the area. 4 responses were received. Three of the respondents agreed with the proposal, and one respondent was not in agreement with the proposal. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.4 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to refurbish a classroom space, extending the existing square footage. This will be achieved by removing the partition to the side of the room to incorporate a kitchen / nurture area. The work will also include installing a new door to the rear of the classroom for easier access to outdoor space. There will also be a new sensory room built to provide a calm space for pupils. The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.048 million and would be funded from the DfE High Needs Capital Grant.
- 3.5 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.048 million as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| High Needs Capital Grant | £0.048 million |
|--------------------------|----------------|

Goodyers End Primary School, Bedworth

- 3.6 Goodyers End Primary School is a 2FE Primary school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 420 places for children aged 4-11 years.
- 3.7 As part of meeting the demand for specialist provision and increasing the local spread of specialist resourced provision for learners with SEMH needs, it is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision at Goodyers End Primary School in Bedworth for up to 16 pupils with an education, health and care plan whose primary need is SEMH.
- 3.8 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at Goodyers End Primary School, a 4 week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 26th April 2023 and 24th May 2023. Details were published in the local press and on the WCC website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Nuneaton & Bedworth and democratic representatives in the area. 18 responses were received. 83% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 11% of respondents disagreed with the proposal, and 6% of respondents provided a neutral response.
- 3.9 Those in agreement with the proposal cited support for further SEMH provision in the local area at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. In terms of disagreement with the proposal the reasons provided were focused around whether the provision would segregate the learners from their peers and whether staffing levels within the school would be able to manage the provision without having a detrimental impact on the wider

school provision. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.10 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to remodel two spare classroom spaces and a storage area to create two classrooms with three sensory/breakout spaces, pupil and staff toilets, and a separate entrance and lobby. The classrooms will lead out onto a refurbished outdoor space. The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.089 million and would be funded from the DfE Special Provision Fund and DfE High Needs Grant.
- 3.11 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.089 million as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Special Provision Fund | £0.041 million |
| High Needs Capital Grant | £0.048 million |

St Andrew's Benn CE Primary School, Rugby

- 3.12 St Andrew's Benn CE Primary School is a 1.5FE Primary school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 315 places for children aged 4-11 years.
- 3.13 St Andrew's Benn CE Primary School has been identified as having pupils with high need which a specialist resourced provision could support whilst further supporting sufficiency in the area and an existing space that can be adapted for September 2023. It is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an education, health and care plan whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.14 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at St Andrew's Benn CE Primary School, a 4 week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 26th April 2023 and 24th May 2023. Details were published in the local press and on the WCC website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Rugby and democratic representatives in the area. Eight responses were received. 88% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 12% of respondents provided a neutral response. Those in agreement with the proposal supported further specialist provision in the area and the need to make sure the right level of resource is available to the school to operate the provision. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.15 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to refurbish and remodel available existing space within the school, create a separate entrance to a new sensory room and upgrade an outdoor play area with fencing and some new flooring. The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.028 million and would be funded from developer contributions.

- 3.16 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.028 million as follows:

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|-------------------|----------------|
| Developer Funding | £0.028 million |
|-------------------|----------------|

St Matthew's Bloxam CE Primary School, Rugby

- 3.17 St Matthew's Bloxam CE Primary School is a 1FE Primary school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 210 places for children aged 4-11 years.

- 3.18 St Matthew's CE Primary School has been identified as having pupils with high need which a specialist resourced provision could support whilst further supporting sufficiency in the area and an existing space that can be adapted for September 2023. It is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an education, health and care plan whose primary needs are communication and interaction.

- 3.19 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at St Matthew's Bloxam CE Primary School, a 4 week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 9th May 2023 and 6th June 2023. Details were published in the local press and on the WCC website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Rugby and democratic representatives in the area. Eight responses were received. 50% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 38% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 12% of respondents provided a neutral response. Those in agreement with the proposal supported further specialist provision in the town. In terms of disagreement with the proposal, the reasons provided were focused around concerns relating to integration into the rest of the school and the resourcing of the provision. In order to address some of these concerns from parents at the school, the school will be asked to ensure a communication plan is in place regarding the establishment of the specialist resourced provision and the additional staff that will be recruited to support this. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.20 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to remodel under utilised existing space within the school and creating a separate entrance to the provision. An outdoor play area for the provision will also be upgraded. The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.026 million and would be funded from developer contributions.

- 3.21 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.026 million as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Developer Contributions | £0.026 million |
|-------------------------|----------------|

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 The approach to sustainable construction will meet Building regulations which has substantially been amended in June 2022. The changes to regulations have significantly strengthened sustainable construction methods and whilst not solely changed for environmental purpose, they ensure that future construction recognises environmental challenges.
- 4.2 The associated capital works are anticipated to be minimal with the additional accommodation requirements involving small scale internal alterations and refurbishment.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on air quality and carbon emissions with the increasing development of resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.

5. Supporting Information

None

Appendices

1. Appendix 1: Capital summary
2. Appendix 2: Summary of responses to consultation

Background Papers

1. Equality Impact Assessment

| | Name | Contact Information |
|--------------------|---|--|
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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Councillors Philipps, Gilbert, Feeney and Brown
Other members: Councillors M Humphreys and Roodhouse