

Cabinet

9 May 2024

Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the establishment of specialist resourced provision and approves the following addition to the capital programme to deliver the prescribed alterations required:
 - a) For Park Hill Junior School, Kenilworth an addition of £0.113 million to the capital programme to be funded from the Special Provision Fund;
 - b) For St Paul's CofE Primary School, Nuneaton, an addition of £0.013 million to the capital programme to be funded from Developer contributions;
- 2) Approves the establishment of specialist resourced provision at Briar Hill Infant School, Leamington Spa at no additional cost to the Council;
- 3) Supports the establishment of specialist resourced provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth and in order to deliver the alterations required approves an addition to the capital programme of £0.090 million to deliver the scheme at Nicholas Chamberlains School, Bedworth. This will be funded from the High Needs Capital Grant and to be drawn down subject to the Department for Education approval of the required change application; and
- 4) Authorises, the Executive Director for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property and the Portfolio Holder for Education, to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Warwickshire has increased annually by 9% over the past 5 years, which is in line with national growth. There have also been changes in the complexity and type of need.
- 1.2 This increase in demand places further financial pressure on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and budget to deliver and source the most appropriate provision. The DSG is the main source of government

funding for the provision of education by local authorities and schools in England.

- 1.3 As part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme of work, the Council is seeking to increase the number of Specialist Resourced Provision places commissioned over the next five years, from the current position of just under 200 places to over 500 places by 2028.
- 1.4 The continued development of specialist resourced provision across the county enables pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), 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.
- 1.5 Warwickshire now has 18 specialist resourced provisions (16 primary and two secondary), with two in North Warwickshire, five in Nuneaton and Bedworth, six in Rugby, two in the Warwick/Leamington area, and three in the Stratford on Avon area.
- 1.6 The main growth and investment is in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties. The demand for specialist educational provision is expected to continue to rise, and the Council will continue to work in partnership with schools to progress successful establishment and development of further provision. The highest priority is to establish secondary school specialist resourced provision in the South and North of the County where there is no provision.
- 1.7 Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish four further specialist provisions in Leamington Spa, Kenilworth, and Nuneaton and Bedworth with implementation for September 2024, as outlined in Section 3.
- 1.8 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.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The High Needs Capital Grant allocation received for 2023/24 is £2.546 million, of which £0.982 million remains unallocated. The Department for Education (DfE) has just announced that the Council has been allocated £7.015 in total for the 2023/24 (additional £4.987m) and 2024/25 (£2.028m) High Needs capital allocation.

Available Resources (unallocated)	2024/25
	£m
Basic Need Grant	27.131
High Needs Grant	7.997
Schools Condition Allocation	6.259
Special Provision Fund	0.162
s.106*	17.845
Earmarked Capital Receipts	2.113
	61.507

*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.

- 2.2 The project costs outlined within this report total £0.216 million of which £0.113 million is from the Special Provision Fund, £0.090 million is from the High Needs Capital Grant and £0.013 million is from developer contributions.
- 2.3 Funding from developer contributions can only be used for a limited range of purposes specified in the relevant agreement. Colleagues in the Infrastructure Team and Finance have confirmed the use and availability of the funding in line with the relevant agreement.
- 2.4 The establishment of resourced provision is part of the strategy to limit the overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allowing learners to be placed in more cost-effective provision, and ensuring that, where possible, more learners with an EHCP can be taught alongside, and within, a mainstream school environment.
- 2.5 Increasing the local offer of specialist resourced provision also aims to reduce travel distance and times for the learner subsequently reducing home to school transport expenditure.
- 2.6 The available funding set out in the table is as at 29 April 2024 and doesn't take into account the projects in this report or other relevant reports on the agenda today.

3. Proposals for Prescribed Alterations

Briar Hill Infant School

- 3.1 Briar Hill is a 3-form entry infant school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding', with 270 places for children aged 4-7 years.
- 3.2 As part of meeting the demand for specialist provision and increasing the local spread of specialist resourced provision it is proposed to formally establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an EHCP whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.3 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at Briar Hill Infant School, a 4-week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 11th March 2024 and 19th April 2024. Details were published in the local press and on the Council's website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Warwick District and democratic representatives in the area. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 A total of 15 responses were received during the consultation period. 80% of respondents agreed with the proposal and the remaining 20% disagreed with the establishment of the specialist resourced provision.
- 3.5 Those in agreement with the proposal cited the need for more SEND provision and supported the inclusion within a mainstream setting. Those not in agreement with the proposal had concerns relating to the impact the provision would have on existing pupils. Respondents also stated the need to ensure the provision was adequately staffed and resourced. A Summary of responses is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The specialist resourced provision would initially accommodate up to five pupils using an existing teaching space before expanding to eight pupils from September 2026 by utilising the recently built classroom previously approved by Cabinet in July 2022 to accommodate additional reception pupils in September 2023 who will be moving out of the school to Junior provision from September 2026.
- 3.7 This approval will not require any further additional capital works or funding.

Park Hill Junior School

- 3.8 Park Hill is a 2-form entry junior school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 264 places for children aged 7-11 years.
- 3.9 As part of meeting the demand for specialist provision and increasing the local spread of specialist resourced provision it is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an EHCP whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.10 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at Park Hill Junior School, a 4-week statutory consultation was carried out

with key stakeholders between 11th March 2024 and 19th April 2024. Details were published in the local press and on the Council's website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Warwick District and democratic representatives in the area. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.11 A total of 18 responses were received during the consultation period. 89% of respondents agreed with the proposal and the remaining 11% of respondents did not support the establishment of specialist resourced provision at Park Hill Junior School.
- 3.12 Those respondents in agreement with the proposal cited a much needed addition to the school community and SEND provision in the County that supported the education of pupils with communication and interaction needs alongside their mainstream peers. Points were also raised in relation to ensuring the provision was resourced and accommodated appropriately. A summary of responses is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.13 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to remodel an existing underutilised area within the school (current use of this space can be timetabled into other areas of the school). The redesign will include a staff admin room, calm room, reading area and toilet off the main classroom. There will also be a raised outdoor play area created. The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.113 million and would be funded from the Special Provision Fund.
- 3.14 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.113 million as follows:

Special Provision Fund	£0.113 million
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St Paul's CofE Primary School, Nuneaton

- 3.15 St Paul's CofE Primary School is a 2-form entry primary school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 420 places for children aged 4-11 years.
- 3.16 As part of meeting the demand for specialist provision and increasing the local spread of specialist resourced it is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 8 pupils with an EHCP whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.17 As part of the process to establish the specialist resourced provision at St Paul's CofE Primary School, a 4-week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 11th March 2024 and 19th April 2024. Details were published in the local press and on the Council's website. Proposals were sent to the parents and carers of pupils at the school, other schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth and democratic representatives in the area. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in Appendix 2.

- 3.18 A total of 15 responses were received during the consultation period. 80% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 7% disagreed with the proposal and 13% provided a neutral response.
- 3.19 The respondents who provided comment highlighted the need for more of this type of provision in the area and there were also concerns raised around disruption to classes at times of integration. A summary of responses is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.20 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to utilise the existing before and after care facility attached to the school to house the specialist resourced provision which will require no major alterations, however there will be some cosmetic and sensory improvements that will need to be done to the internal space.
- 3.21 The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.013 million and would be funded from developer contributions.
- 3.22 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.013 million as follows:

Developer Funding	£0.013 million
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Nicholas Chamberlaine School

- 3.23 Nicholas Chamberlaine School is a 10-form entry secondary school, with an Ofsted rating of 'Requires Improvement', with 1500 places for children aged 11-16 years.
- 3.24 As part of meeting the demand for specialist provision and increasing the local spread of specialist resourced provision for learners it is proposed to establish specialist resourced provision for up to 24 pupils with an EHCP whose primary needs are communication and interaction.
- 3.25 In order to accommodate the specialist resourced provision, it is proposed to remodel an existing classroom area that is currently used for providing intervention and additional pupil support. The redesign will include a large classroom which will have capacity to be zoned into separate areas, a nurture room with kitchen and comfortable seating area, a disabled, single use toilet, plus four additional toilets located off the main corridor. There will also be a designated landscaped outdoor area for the specialist resourced provision cohort to provide a relaxed, sensory space.
- 3.26 The cost of these capital works has been estimated at £0.090 million and would be funded from the High Needs Capital Grant.
- 3.27 As part of establishing the specialist resourced provision, the academy trust will be required to submit a 'significant change' application to the Department for Education for approval. As part of this process Nicholas Chamberlaine School carried out a 4-week statutory consultation with key

stakeholders between 11th March 2024 and 19th April 2024. A summary report will be published on the School and Trust website in due course and submitted to the Department for Education.

- 3.28 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate an additional £0.090 million as follows:

High Needs Capital Grant £0.090 million

4 Environmental Implications

- 4.1 Anticipated to be minimal with the additional accommodation requirements involving small scale internal alterations.
- 4.2 There is also the positive impact with the increasing development of resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 None

6 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps.

- 6.1 If approved, necessary works would take place over the summer to enable all four provisions to be opened and operational in September 2024.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 - Summary of responses to consultation

Background Papers

1. Equality Impact Assessment

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith - Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Dale Bromfield - Commissioning Manager, Claire Thornicroft – Education Capital Co-ordinator	emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk dalebromfield@warwickshire.gov.uk clairethornicroft@warwickshire.gov.uk

Director	Johnny Kyriacou – Director of Education	johnnykyriacou@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Nigel Minns - Executive Director for Children and Young People	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur – Portfolio Holder for Education Cllr Peter Butlin – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property	kamkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Cllr Judy Falp, Cllr Tracey Drew, Cllr Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Cllr Mandy Tromans

Other members: Chair & Spokes of CYP OSC