

# Cabinet

8 October 2020

## Addition of Capital Scheme at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School to the Education (Schools) Capital Programme 2020/21

### Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the addition of £572,666 to the education schools capital programme 2020/21 to create specialist resourced provision at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School funded from existing unallocated Education capital resource .

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Over the past five years, the growth in places at special schools in Warwickshire has significantly outstripped that in mainstream schools. There has been significant growth in both generic and specialist special schools. The main growth and investment has been in specialist provision for pupils with communication and interaction needs and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.
- 1.2 Establishing resourced provision is a key project within the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme (part of the SEND & Inclusion Strategy and DSG Recovery Plan). It allows learners with SEND to attend local settings and provides a bridge between mainstream and specialist provision.
- 1.3 There are currently 8 resourced provisions attached to mainstream primary schools in Warwickshire – 2 in North Warwickshire, 2 in Nuneaton & Bedworth, 2 in Rugby, 1 in Warwick and 1 in the Stratford on Avon area. As part of meeting forecast demand and building on the local offer of specialist provision the local authority is continuing the development of resourced provision across the county whereby pupils, who are able to access a mainstream curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located within a mainstream school environment.
- 1.4 Warwickshire County Council is proposing to establish a specialist provision at Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School for up to 14 primary age pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) where SEMH is the primary need. If approved the provision would be implemented during academic year 2020/21.

- 1.5 Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School is a 1 form entry primary school which offers up to 220 places for children aged 4-11 years, with an Ofsted rating of 'Good'. As an academy, Henley-in-Arden CE Primary School will seek permission from the Regional Schools Commissioner through a statutory process in order to be able to offer the additional provision for SEND learners.
- 1.6 Pupils in the specialist resourced provision will benefit from accessing education at a mainstream primary school through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs.
- 1.7 Planning permission would be sought for a stand-alone, single storey unit in proximity to the mainstream setting so that the children can also access the facilities of the school. The unit will comprise of 2 teaching areas, 1 group room, three further rooms for therapeutic use, toilets, a social area and a staffroom. An external area will be adapted to the needs of the children, who will be provided with a protected area to play.
- 1.8 The new structure would replace a temporary classroom which is in poor condition and has exceeded its anticipated lifespan.
- 1.9 The children who will attend the setting will be on a different timetable from the main school, arriving at 9.15am and leaving at 3.00pm (pupils at the main school building start at 9.00 am and finish at 3.15pm). Therefore, owing to the differences in scheduling, the small number of additional vehicles generated by the proposal will have limited impact on traffic and parking on and around the site at the start or the end of the main school day.
- 1.10 The establishment of the specialist resourced provision will not impact on the school's current published admission number of 30. Admissions to the specialist resourced provision 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. The proposal is for the specialist resourced provision to cater for up to 14 pupils initially. This number may be reviewed in the future.
- 1.11 The provision is for pupils in the primary phase with the intention to help pupils to gradually increase their time in mainstream lessons until they can attend with lower levels of support. By the end of year 6, a decision will be made as to whether they can successfully transition into a mainstream secondary school. Alternatively, it may be decided that their needs can be best met in a different setting such as Venture Academy in Henley-in-Arden which is a special school catering for pupils with SEMH and autism.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 Pupil places in the resourced provisions are funded (from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block) at an appropriate rate so that a pupil's additional learning needs can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools.

This arrangement will free up places in Warwickshire special schools so they can accommodate pupils who would otherwise require places in high cost independent specialist provision. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

- 2.2 Education capital funding would be used to fund the required capital works. The Special Provision Fund is a grant provided to increase the number of pupil places in specialist provision. The total cost of the project is estimated to be £572,666 which gives an average cost per place of £40,905 compared with the national average of £65,739. (SEND EBD OG benchmark) Because the expenditure will be wholly met by external funding, it is within the powers delegated to Cabinet by Council to add the scheme to the Capital Programme.
- 2.3 The establishment of resourced provision is part of the DSG Recovery & Sustainability Plan (Intervention 1) allowing learners to be placed in more cost effective provision, reducing the pressure on in county specialist provision and reducing the need to place learners in more expensive independent specialist provision. The establishment of resourced provision across the county 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. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 Increasing development of resourced provision aims to provide more 'local' education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.
- 3.2 The additional accommodation requirements of a small modular building of a modern method of construction are anticipated to have minimal environmental implications.

### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 None

### **5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 5.1 Approval by Cabinet will enable the provision to be implemented during academic year 2020/21

### **6. Background Paper**

Equality Impact Assessment

## 7. Supporting Paper

The July 9th Cabinet paper – [DSG Recovery & Sustainability Plan](#)

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