

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 13th January 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3022
TITLE:	Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Programme – Delivering sufficiency of SEND School Places in B&NES	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure sufficiency of Special Educational Needs school places within Bath & North East Somerset. Currently the local area does not have sufficiency of SEND school places, particularly for children with very complex needs.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree with;

- 2.1 Approval for the Local Authority to utilise existing provisional budget within the capital programme of £500k, to be spent on expanding existing provision within the area to increase placements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 £500k has been identified in the Local Authorities capital program and a project initiation document has been approved by the Goods & Services panel.
- 3.2 The creation of local spaces will reduce the need for out of authority provision which is often 2 to 3 times as expensive as a local area placement and in some cases more than this. Our post 16 yrs developments alone has the potential at capacity to save £500k per annum on independent placements/out of area placements. The savings that could be achieved by reducing our reliance on such placements are significant & essential to managing the SEND placement budget going forward and will ease budget pressures.

3.3 Additionally having more local provision reduces the need for individual transport for out of county placements. An average individual taxi to an out of county placement can cost up to £25k per year. Having spaces locally means we can utilise existing local transport options at significant reduced cost.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 This decision will support an increase of 107 new school & college places for pupils with SEND in B&NES. 54 at Post 16 and 53 in pre 16. This will support the local authority in meeting its statutory duty to deliver sufficiency of school places within its local area.

4.2 The creation of these additional spaces will then enable the Council to pro-actively manage and influence the allocation of school places for children with Education and Health Plans (EHC Plans). The increased local provision will allow children with EHC plans to be educated locally and will significantly reduce the number of school placements which are either at some distance, or outside of the Bath and North-East Somerset area. In turn this will reduce the cost to the Local Authority of transporting children to special school placements outside of B&NES.

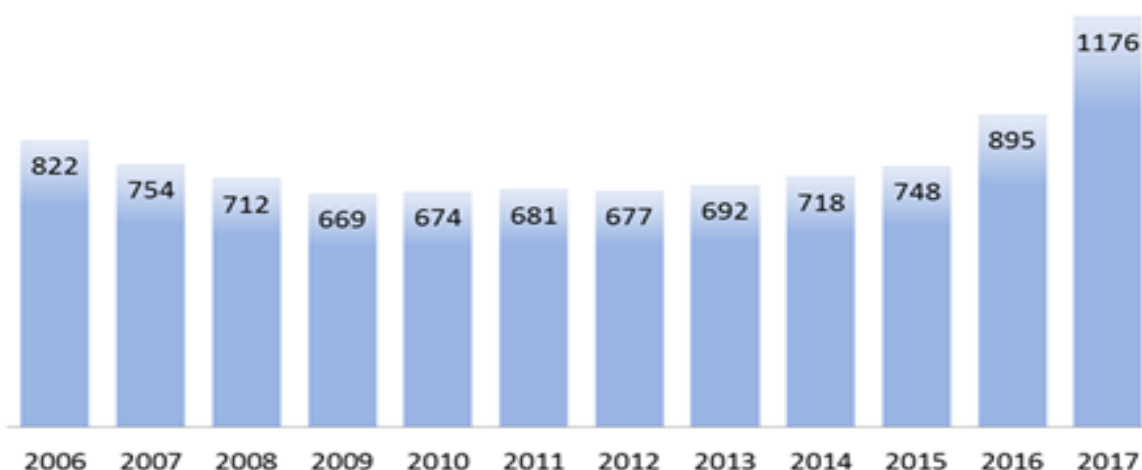
4.3 By reducing the need for young people to travel long distances to receive their education this will also be beneficial to children, reducing long travel times and improving their readiness to learn.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 B&NES has 3 “good” to “outstanding” Special Schools and a track record of ensuring that children with SEND can be included in mainstream schools, just over 50% of pupils with an Education Health Care Plan are educated in mainstream schools, which is just below the national average and is an indicator of good inclusive practice. Particularly we need to ensure that the local area becomes less reliant on high cost out of county independent school and college places, currently the High Needs Budget that funds SEND Provision is under significant pressure.

5.2 Like all areas across the country, B&NES has seen a growth in children and young people needing support via an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) this growth is demonstrated below.

SEND Statement/EHCP numbers, B&NES, Snapshot at January 2006 to
January 2017



5.3 This Capital Project will award grants to education providers who have demonstrated the capacity to expand and develop existing provision to ensure an increase in local education places from September 2018. This will provide a short term and medium term solution for school place sufficiency. This capital program will be delivered in 2 parts, one via £500k capital grant, which is the purpose of this single member decision and a second part via a £577k DFE Grant, to follow as a separate decision.

5.4 What have we done?

Invited local providers to develop potential solutions to SEND School Place availability against locally defined strategic aims as set out below;

- Provision that supports children with Social, Emotional and Mental Difficulties (SEMD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and, Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)/Physical Difficulties (PD), particularly children with challenging & complex behaviour at primary and secondary age
- Post 16 years provision, we would like to strengthen our Further Education/post 16 years offer and outcomes in the area, particularly around Preparing for Adulthood Pathways such as narrowing the gap between education and employment outcomes, and increasing independence and community participation, internships & supported employment
- Developing FE/post 16 years offer for young people with SEMH/challenging behaviour, PMLD/PD, complex/high functioning ASD, ideally including developing access to local residential provision and five day or specialist packages working with social care
- Development of provision in mainstream that supports inclusion for children with SEND, ASD/SEMH
- Developing capacity in existing provision that can accommodate growing local need and demand for children with SEND.

5.5 What have we selected?

From 14 expressions of interest, 4 providers have been chosen to develop additional SEND places within B&NES. These were assessed via a panel of LA officers.

The Capital Grants will be awarded to 4 providers who will be responsible for all delivery of their proposals and projects. All proposals will develop existing buildings or build on available land within existing sites. The four providers are; Bath College, Aspire Special School & Threeways Special School will work on a joint site development & Broadlands Secondary School. In total the project aims to deliver an additional 107 school places for children with SEND in both, Mainstream, Special and Post 16 colleges.

5.6 Next Steps – Capital Release & Communication

- Wave 1 Existing LA Capital 500k - PID 24th October 2017 – Single Member Decision now sought
- Wave 2 DFE Funding £573K – Frontload into Emerging Capital Programme 18 -19. Repay into LA Capital Fund over 3 years.
- Parental Communication and Publication on B&NES Webpages/Local Offer – January 2018

5.7 Expected completion dates of projects

January 2018 with works starting in early 2018.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 School place sufficiency for children and young people with special educational needs.

6.2 Effective use of financial resources

6.3 Reducing journey time and costs to school placements

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 The Council has been aware of the mounting pressures that the increased demand for SEND placements presents. It is important to note that the growth of these pressures is replicated nationally, and is linked to changes to the cohort of young people that are now eligible for assessments in regard to their special educational needs.

7.2 Over the past two years we have explored a range of options that might assist to address these pressures. We continue to make amendments to other areas of assessment, finance and banding that all contribute to addressing pressures in conjunction with the proposals outlined in this paper.

8 CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with all schools and colleges inviting schools to develop proposals to increase sufficiency of school places within their provision. There

has been a good level of interest from schools in regard to this, and we are now in advanced discussions with four Multi Academy Trusts who are interested in providing these places.

8.1 An initial consultation has been under taken with all schools and colleges in B&NES. This has identified 4 providers with capacity to expand and deliver placements. We further plan to consult with parent and carer groups on our plans to expand and deliver additional school places.

8.2 s151 & Monitoring Officers have reviewed and input into this report

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Chris Wilford/ Richard Baldwin <i>Include your name and contact telephone number here</i>
Background papers	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
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