

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference****E3022****SEND Capital Bid**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Paul May
The Issue	Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Programme – Delivering sufficiency of SEND School Places in B&NES
Decision Date	16 th January 2018.
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees with the approval for the Local Authority to utilise £500k to be spent on expanding existing provision within the area to increase placements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).
Rationale for decision	<p>The £500k identified in the capital program can utilised alongside an incoming grant from the DFE of £577k in April 2018 to deliver all projects. Providing an overall sum of over one million pounds to increase the numbers of SEND places in local schools and Colleges.</p> <p>The creation of 107 additional 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. The savings that could be achieved by reducing our reliance on “Out of County” placements are significant & essential to managing the SEND placement budget going forward.</p>
Financial and budget implications	The increased provision of local places 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.
Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation);
Consultation undertaken	Cabinet colleagues; staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Community Interest Groups; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	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

	<p>Academy Trusts who are interested in providing these places.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member for decision, including any dispensation granted:</p>	<p>There are no declarations of interest.</p>
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	<p>There are no declarations of interest.</p>
<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	
<p>Date of Signature</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</p>	