

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	18 September 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	School's Capital Programme – SEND & Mainstream	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the School's Capital Programme for Special Education Needs (SEND), Alternative Provision (AP) and mainstream school places.
- 1.2 To provide an update on the School's Capital Planned Maintenance (SCPM) programme.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to.

- 2.1 **Note the update provided in this report.**

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The 1996 Education Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure there are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas and for securing that special educational provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs (SEND).
- 3.2 The Council's School Organisation Plan, is a strategic document that sets out the pupil projection figures and the Council's strategy for delivering new school

places. The Plan is currently being updated and will inform future mainstream Capital Programme priorities.

- 3.3 The Council has a commitment to ensure that young people with SEND and an Education, Health and Care Plan are given the support they need. The Council's priorities are set out in the SEND Education Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2024.

Mainstream Projects

- 3.4 A number of mainstream school projects are awaiting planning approval. The Council is managing a project to expand St Keyna Primary School from 210 places to 420 places. The project will deliver new accommodation, to Passivhaus standard and re-provide external play facilities on a new area of education reserve land. The budget cost is £5.1m which is being funded by Basic Need grant, CIL and S106 contributions.
- 3.5 Oldfield Secondary School are awaiting planning approval to deliver a new two storey teaching block at a cost of approximately £2m. The Council has agreed to provide a financial contribution of £500k to support delivery of the new infrastructure.
- 3.6 Several future projects have been identified that will require capital funding either from Basic Need grant or S106 contributions.

We are awaiting confirmation from St Mark's Secondary School regarding a project to improve hall/dining facilities or food technology facilities. A £200k contribution has been earmarked within the Capital Programme.

At Two Rivers Primary School a sports pitch and external playing field will be provided on land, reserved for education, from the adjacent housing development at Withies Green.

SEND Projects

- 3.7 A new SEND school has received approval via the DfE's centrally delivered free school route. The location for the school is currently being investigated by the Department. When complete, the school should provide 120 co-educational places for children and young people with Severe Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties aged 4 – 19.
- 3.8 SEND Small School with Residential unit – a successful bid to the DfE Safety Valve Programme for additional Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) funding has resulted in a £4m capital grant being allocated to the Council from the DfE. The Council has committed a further £1m from the HNPCA 2022-23 allocation, a total of £5m is available for this project. The site location has not yet been identified but the facility will be delivered by a MAT in conjunction with the Council once the site is confirmed.
- 3.9 At Somervale School a new build Resource Base to accommodate up to 20 pupils with SEMH (Social Emotional and Mental Health) is due to open in September 2025. This project will be joint funded by BN grant, HNPCA and CIL. The project is fully approved and will be delivered by the Council.

- 3.10 Ralph Allen School – a new build Resource Base to accommodate up to 16 pupils with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) is due to open in September 2025. The project is fully approved and funded by HNPCA. The Palladian Academy Trust is delivering the project.
- 3.11 Midsomer Norton Primary School will undergo a remodelling exercise to change some existing school accommodation and create a Resource Base. This will accommodate up to 10 children with SPLD (Specific Learning Difficulty)/ASD. It is funded by HNPCA and will open in September 2023. The project is being delivered by the academy trust.
- 3.12 Westfield Primary School will undergo a remodelling exercise and some existing school accommodation will change to create a new Resource Base. The RB will accommodate up to 10 children with S< (Speech & Language Therapy) and is due to complete in February 2024. The scheme is fully funded by HNPCA and the Council will deliver the project.
- 3.13 Bath College, Somer Valley Campus, Radstock Residential Unit – a SEND residential unit will be provided, for up to 12 young people who have an EHCP and will be receiving their education at the Wellow Centre on the Somer Valley Campus. £4m to be funded through Council borrowing paid for by savings from existing costs. A feasibility study has been carried out and a preferred design and location option costed. The project will be delivered by Bath College. The funding has not yet been fully approved.
- 3.14 Roundhill Primary School accommodation will be remodelled to provide a new SEMH/ASD Resource Base for up to 16 children. The project will be funded by HNPCA when feasibility is fully established. It is planned that the RB will open in September 2025 and the scheme will be delivered by the Council.
- 3.15 A proposed remodel of accommodation at Peasedown St John Primary School will create an RB to accommodate up to 10 children with ASD. When feasibility is established and agreed by the Multi Academy Trust, the RB would open from September 2024 and the project would be delivered by the Council using HNCPA funding.
- 3.16 St Gregory's Secondary – a new build Resource Base to accommodate up to 16 pupils with MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulties) and HI (Hearing Impairment) is proposed. When feasibility is established, the provision would open from September 2025 and would be delivered by the Council using HNPCA funding.

Alternative Provision Projects

- 3.17 The Council is currently awaiting the outcome of a free school bid to deliver an AP facility for 50 pupils. If this bid is unsuccessful further consideration will be given to how future AP can be provided and what cost this may be to the School's Capital Programme.

Mainstream Maintenance Projects

- 3.18 The Council is currently in the process of finalising a number of maintenance projects at Newbridge Primary School to address items, including heating, windows and some poor building condition.

- 3.19 At St Keyna Primary School, the Renewable Energy Programme Manager is delivering a scheme to improve sustainability, which includes solar panels and LED lighting. A financial contribution of £63k has been provided from SCPM to support the delivery of the upgraded lighting.
- 3.20 Full School Condition Surveys have recently been commissioned to identify the highest priority issues at Newbridge Primary, Twerton Infants, St Keyna Primary and Paulton Junior Schools. These surveys are being examined to determine a future programme of works which will inform the Council's future schools maintenance programme.
- 3.21 The SCPM Programme, retains two capital budgets for Emergency Works and Minor Works. Together these are currently £1.1m. This funding is held to address ad hoc, unforeseen condition issues as they arise throughout the year. This may include items such as heating boiler failures (requiring immediate temporary heating) or a leaking roof requiring immediate repair to ensure the school remains operational. As agreed in the Council's annual Budget Report, The Director of Education has delegated authority to approve projects within these budgets.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Education Act 1996, Section 14 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities to secure sufficient schools to provide primary and secondary education in their area.
- 4.2 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a statutory duty for securing that special educational provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs (SEND)

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Council receives Basic Need (BN) grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE). The funding is allocated to support the provision of sufficient school places where additional need has been identified as part of the annual DfE School Capacity (SCAP) return. The annual allocation fluctuates and was £4.8m in 2021/22, £1m in 2022/23 and zero in 2023/24. Future grant payments identified by the DfE up to 2026 total £5.4m
- 5.2 The Council receives SCPM grant funding from the DfE on an annual basis. This funding is allocated to support maintenance priorities at maintained schools. This funding has reduced as more maintained schools have converted to become academies. Academy trusts receive direct funding to support maintenance priorities. In 2016/17, the Council's annual SCPM grant allocation was £1.5m, however by 2023/24 this has dropped to £179k.
- 5.3 Other sources of capital funding that are sometimes available to support new infrastructure projects include Section 106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. These sources of funding come from new housing developments to support infrastructure needs.
- 5.4 The Council has received High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNCPA) grant funding to support the provision of new places and improve existing provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities or requiring

alternative provision. The Council has received HNCPA in 2022-23 of £2.64m and £3.3m in 2023-24

5.5 The Council bid for and has received an additional sum of £4m HNCPA linked to the Safety Valve Programme and work which includes, as part of the commitment from B&NES, to increase the sufficiency of places for children and young people with an EHCP and reduce the overspend in the DSG. This additional HNCPA funding is committed to the SEND Small School with Residential Unit mentioned in 3.8 above.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Once approved, a risk assessment related to each project is undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 No adverse impacts were identified from the Equalities Impact Assessments.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 All projects are delivered in accordance with national and local planning requirements.

8.2 Buildings are delivered to the highest level of sustainability and in accordance with the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy.

8.3 Providing local places within the heart of the community encourages sustainable travel to school such as walking and cycling.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Projects are identified following a full feasibility process. This determines the best option in terms of sustainability, cost, and deliverability.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Schools, Academy Trusts, Diocese, and any other relevant parties are consulted during the planning stages to discuss proposals and plan implementation.

10.2 Where statutory consultations are required to expand, change age range or type of provision, these are carried out by the appropriate body in accordance with the legislation.

10.3 Following identification of individual projects and preferred options, all proposed future schemes are shared with the appropriate senior officers and members for full approval via the Council's financial approvals process.

Contact person	<i>Josephine Rees – Team Leader School's Capital, Organisation & Admissions, 01225 395149</i>
Background	<i>None</i>

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