

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 14 June 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Schools Capital Update – 2018/19

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the receipt of funding via the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF), additional capital works required for 2018/19, and the proposals for additional resource base provision at two of Halton's primary schools to accommodate and support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF) and application procedure for 2018/19 is noted;**
- 2) the proposals for capital works at Ashley School and Simms Cross Primary School, funded from the Basic Need Capital funding are approved; and**
- 3) the proposals regarding the provision of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Resource Bases at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School, together with the publishing of statutory notices are approved.**

3.0 Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF)

- 3.1 The Executive Board received a report on 18th January 2018 (minute 89 refers) regarding receipt of The Healthy Pupils Capital Funding for 2018/19 as a result of £100m of revenue generated from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy. In March 2018 the Department for Education confirmed Halton's allocation of £70,362. This funding is for one financial year only and is to be used to improve children's and young people's physical and mental health, by improving and increasing availability to facilities for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and well-being and medical conditions.
- 3.2 The funding will be distributed equally to Halton's Community and Voluntary Controlled Nursery, Primary and Special Schools. Schools will be required to complete an application form outlining the project confirming how it meets the grant conditions, once the works are completed and copy invoices submitted, the funding will be released to the school. Schools may if they wish make their own financial contribution towards any project.

4.0 Additional capital work requirements

4.1 Ashley School remodelling

Following discussions with the Head Teacher at Ashley School it is recommended that some internal remodelling of the school is undertaken to allow for an enhanced learning environment for the pupils at the school. The proposed works involve re-designation of some of the current areas and provision of equipment to three rooms, together with the proposal to divide a currently large activity space in the 6th form into two separate classrooms divided by a concertina door. These works will allow for a more flexible approach for the school in delivering the curriculum and in supporting the needs of the pupils at the school. The estimated cost of this works is circa £70,000. Funding for these works will come from Basic Need Funding and a school contribution.

4.2 Simms Cross remodelling

The Local Authority has been in discussion with the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors at the School with a view to further improving the suitability and condition of the current accommodation at the school. In discussion with the school it is recommended that works should be undertaken to enhance the school environment including the installation of toilets between the two reception classrooms, the conversion of a shower room to a disabled toilet, remodelling and refurbishment of the nursery area within the school and relocation of the Resource Base.

On the 18th January 2018, Executive Board approved the capital programme which included capital repairs and also a budget for access initiative works (minute 89 refers). The capital repairs programme included lighting works to the nursery area of Simms Cross Primary School. Access funding will be utilised to fund some of the works, along with a contribution from the school.

The estimated cost of the works is £122,000. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient School Condition Allocation (SCA) budget previously approved by Executive Board available to fund this works, however, should there be a shortfall of funding, Basic Need monies will need to be utilised.

4.3 Social Emotional and Mental Health Resource Bases at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School

4.4 Members were advised at the Executive Board meeting on 18th January 2018 that the Department for Education had announced Special Provision Capital Funding for local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, with funding for a range of provision types where this would benefit children and young people with Education Health and Care plans. The funding was due to commence in 2018/19, with Halton's allocation over a three year period being £500,000 released in three payments over the three years.

- 4.5 Following widespread consultation it was determined that Halton had a need for specific Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision within Borough, and expressions of interest were sought from schools graded Good or better by Ofsted. Five primary schools expressed an interest and following submission of proposals by those schools, and an interview process, it was recommended that two specific resource bases for children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 be proposed at Beechwood Primary School and Halton Lodge Primary School.

The provision will be through additional accommodation at those schools, and this accommodation is being built to specifically support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and will be funded via the Special Provision Capital Funding, provided by the Department for Education. It is intended that these resource bases will align to the existing Social, Emotional and Mental Health Bases within Key Stage 2 provision.

Attached to this report are the proposed Statutory Notices for both schools and it is recommended that the Board approves publication of the notices and, subject to any variation as a result of responses to the statutory notices, approves progression of the proposals, which include the provision of additional accommodation at both schools specifically in place for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirements to enhance the school environment through capital projects via specifically targeted funding.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Local Authorities receive Basic Need funding from the Department for Education to ensure sufficient pupil places but the funding can also be used to address significant modernisation and suitability issues within schools if there are no forecasted Basic Need issues. The total Basic Need funding available is £270,551. Funding for the Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision, and for the Healthy Pupil capital works is provided direct by the Department for Education. By introducing Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision within Borough, this will help to reduce the need for expenditure at independent provisions.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

The Capital Projects will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

The HPCF is to be used to improve children's and young people's physical and mental health, by improving and increasing availability to facilities for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and well-being and medical conditions.

The provision of Social, Emotional and Mental Health resource bases will ensure that the needs of these children can be met in-Borough.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

As 8.1

8.3 A Healthy Halton

The HPCF is to be used to improve children's and young people's physical and mental health, by improving and increasing availability to facilities for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and well-being and medical conditions

8.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 Basic Need funding has been retained to ensure the Authority can respond to demand for additional works/provision.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.

10.2 The works to be carried out at Ashley School and through the SEMH projects at Beechwood and Halton Lodge Primary schools will broaden the range of educational provision within Halton.

10.3 The conversion of the shower room to a disabled toilet at Simms Cross Primary School will ensure that disabled infant pupils will have a toilet in the vicinity of their classroom. The remodelling of the nursery area at Simms Cross Primary School will create a more accessible teaching space for nursery pupils as they will be in one room rather than a number of rooms situated on either side of the corridor. The remodelling / re-designation of classroom areas at Simms Cross Primary School will also provide a designated space for the Infant Resource Base to support those pupils with additional needs.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

11.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Not applicable.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13.1 The works at Simms Cross and Ashley Schools need to be completed by September 2018. It is anticipated that the proposed works at Beechwood and Halton Lodge Primary Schools will be completed in time for the 2019/20 academic year.

14.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Funding Allocations 2018/19 Department for Education 15/03/18.	People Directorate	Catriona Gallimore
Basic Need Allocations 2011 – 2020 Department for Education 07/03/18	People Directorate	Catriona Gallimore