

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum

**DATE:** 13 June 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – People

**SUBJECT:** Schools Capital Update – 2018/19

**WARD:** 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 at Ashley School and Simms Cross Primary Schools, 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.
- 1.2 A report is being submitted to the Council's Executive Board on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 asking them to note the Healthy Pupil Capital Funding, approve the proposed works at Ashley School and Simms Cross Primary School, and approve the proposals regarding the Social Emotional and Mental Health resource bases at the two of Halton's primary schools.

## **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 noted; 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 noted.**

## **3.0 Healthy Pupil Capital Fund (HPCF)**

- 3.1 The Council's Executive Board received a report on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Council's 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 Elected Members were advised at the Executive Board meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 which will be subject to Executive Board approval.

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

- 8.1 None.