

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	19 September 2019
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – People
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Education and Social Care
SUBJECT:	Basic Need Capital Funding
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report seeks permission to build a classroom extension at Chesnut Lodge School.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

Approval is given to use Basic Need funding to build a classroom extension at Chesnut Lodge.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1. Chesnut Lodge School is a community special school in Widnes, catering for pupils with complex physical and medical difficulties. The pupils range from 2 – 16 years old with a statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- 3.2. Currently an area that was previously used as a training flat, is being used to teach a class of pupils. Whilst it does allow teaching to take place, it is difficult for pupils to manoeuvre within the teaching space and isn't ideal due to the shape and size and also the kitchen area that is contained within it.
- 3.3. The school requires a one classroom extension in order to create a more suitable learning environment and to accommodate the growing numbers of pupils requiring the type of education that Chesnut Lodge can provide, rather than attending an out of borough school.
- 3.4. It is therefore proposed to provide an extension for an additional classroom at an estimated cost of £300,000. It is proposed to fund the works from Basic Need capital funding.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The project will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance learning environments through capital projects.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1. Children and Young People in Halton

The project will be funded from Basic Need capital funding and will address the suitability issues within Chesnut Lodge School. A more suitable learning environment will be provided and this will also assist in accommodating the increasing number of pupils that are attending the school.

6.2. Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

As 6.1 above

6.3. A Healthy Halton

Chesnut Lodge School caters pupils with complex physical and medical difficulties. The pupils range from 2 – 16 years old with a statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The provision of an additional classroom will further enhance the education that is currently offered at the school.

6.4. A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5. Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1. Basic Need Funding has been retained to enable the Authority to respond to future pupil changes.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1. This project is aimed at ensuring pupils with complex physical and medical difficulties can be educated within their own local community rather than attending an out of borough provision.

8.2. The additional classroom will create a more suitable learning environment for the pupils that attend Chesnut Lodge School.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
DfE Schools Capital Announcement	People Directorate	Catrina Gallimore