

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Economy

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Basic Need Capital Funding

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update for the allocation and spending of Basic Need capital funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the proposal to allocate Basic Need capital funding to Hale CE Primary School project be approved;**
- 2) the position in respect of the balance of Basic Need capital funding be noted; and**
- 3) the report is submitted to Full Council for approval.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton - Basic Need Capital Funding

The Basic Need allocation supports the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies and by establishing new schools. In Halton pupil forecast data is used to determine if there is a need to provide additional school places in order to meet demand by comparing forecast data with school capacity data.

3.2 Basic Need Capital Allocations

The total Basic Need funding allocated to Halton for 2015/16 to 2017/18 is £1,898.909. Halton has used Basic Need capital funding to carry out building works to provide additional school places at Lunts Heath Primary (35 places), Windmill Hill Primary (28 places), St Bedes Infants (45 places) & Juniors (60 places), Weston Primary (35 places) and Beechwood Primary (35 places) therefore alleviating pressure for the demand for school places in these areas. Basic Need funding has also been used to provide vocational, 6th form and independent living facilities at Ashley School following the re-designation of the school.

Following a recent analysis of forecast and school capacity data there is not an immediate pupil place Basic Need issue to address and therefore it is proposed to use Basic Need capital funding to address significant modernisation and suitability issues within schools.

3.3 Capital Allocation for Hale CE Primary School.

Currently the school operates from six classrooms with mixed year groups in in Years 3 and 4. The school has a Planned Admission Number of 25. In September 2014 the reception class intake was 27 and following the current admissions process it is anticipated the intake in September 2015 will be 25. In future years, as reception class numbers are maintained at 25 and other year groups of high numbers work through the school, it will not be possible to accommodate mixed year groups and by 2017 the school will be short of classroom space. It is therefore proposed to provide an extension at one end of the school for an additional classroom at an estimated cost of £116,000. It is proposed to fund the works from Basic Need capital funding. The school will be required to make a contribution to the cost of the works.

3.4 Balance of Basic Need Capital Funding.

The balance of Basic Need capital funding will be retained to respond to any pupil place planning/demographic issues arising in either the primary or secondary sectors. A further report will be submitted to the Executive Board detailing any proposed expenditure.

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 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The project being funded from Basic Need capital funding will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

As 6.1 above

6.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

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

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 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.

9.0 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 The decision is required to deliver and implement the capital programme.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

July 2015 following agreement from Full Council.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
DfE Schools Capital Announcement	C&E Directorate	P Dove