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| <b>Subject:</b>          | <b>Education Basic Need - Allocation £15million previously earmarked for purchase of a site for a new Free School</b> |  |                    |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>  | <b>CYPS Urgency Meeting 30 April 2018</b>   |  |                    |
| <b>Report of:</b>        | <b>Executive Director of Children's Services</b>  |  |                    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>  | <b>Name:</b>  | <b>Richard Barker</b>                      | <b>Tel: 290732</b> |
|                          | <b>Email:</b>   | <b>richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b> |                    |
| <b>Ward(s) affected:</b> | <b>All</b>  |  |                    |

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 A report was considered by CYPS on 6 March 2018 and Policy, Resources & Growth Committee (PR&G) on 29 March 2018 in respect of the capital programme for Families, Children and Learning. The report focused on the school condition allocation as no final decision had been made regarding the opening of the new school at the time of writing the report. By the time the report was considered by PR&G on 29 March the position in respect of secondary school places was clearer.
- 1.2 On 14 March 2018 The University of Brighton Academies Trust formally withdrew its proposal to sponsor a new secondary school in Brighton and Hove. Subsequently the Regional Schools Commissioner wrote to the Council interested to know how the Council would meet a rise in demand for school places in the medium term, should it arise.
- 1.3 The PR&G committee agreed amendments to the recommendations in the report, approving the funding necessary to enable all necessary building, adaptation and other associated works undertaken at Dorothy Stringer School to accommodate the "misplaced 38" children for September 2018.
- 1.4 A further amendment required an urgency meeting of the CYPS Committee be convened to consider the allocation of the £15 million on the remainder of the qualifying school estate.
- 1.5 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the proposed use of the £15 million on the remainder of the qualifying school estate.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Committee agree the necessary building, adaptation and other associated works at Dorothy Stringer School following the amendment agreed at PR&G committee on 29 March 2018.

- 2.2 That Committee agree the allocation of the balance of the Government funded £15 million on the remainder of the school estate as shown in Paragraphs 3.8 to 3.16 and recommend this to PR&G Committee for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2018/19.
- 2.3 That Committee agree the allocation of the final School Condition Allocation and the Healthy Pupil Capital Allocation as detailed in Paragraphs 3.17 to 3.22 and recommend this to PR&G Committee for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2018/19.
- 2.4 That Committee agree to recommend to PR&G Committee that they grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Property & Design to procure the works and enter into contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders in respect of the entire Education Capital Programme.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Education Capital Programme forms part of the Council's full Capital Investment Programme which was presented to Budget PR&G Committee on 8 February 2018 and Budget Council on 22 February 2018.
- 3.2 A report to inform CYPS Committee of the level of available capital resources allocated to this service for 2018/19 and to recommend a Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19 was considered by the CYPS Committee and PR&G Committee on 6 March and 29 March respectively.
- 3.3 At the time of writing the report there had been no final clarification from the Regional Schools Commissioner on the future of the proposed secondary Free School in the city.
- 3.4 By the time of the PR&G committee there was greater clarity for the Local Authority that they could consider alternative uses for the £15 million that had previously been earmarked for purchasing a site for the proposed Free School.
- 3.5 In addition the allocation of secondary school places for September 2018 had been made on 1 March 2018 and it was apparent that there were some pupils in the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools' catchment area who did not gain a place at either of their catchment schools, despite expressing a preference for both schools.
- 3.6 PR&G had the benefit of this knowledge when considering the report and were keen to ensure that consideration was given to the immediate use of the £15 million. The PR&G committee requested that funding be made available immediately to provide the necessary temporary additional places in the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools' catchment area for September 2018.
- 3.7 It further recommended an urgency meeting of the CYPS committee be convened to consider the use of the balance of the Basic Need funding.

- 3.8 In line with the agreed amendment to the recommendations this urgency meeting of the CYPS committee has been convened to consider the use of the £15million. The remainder of the £15million should be used to maximise the number of school places in the city for the foreseeable future. This should be based on pupil projections and the housing developments required by the City Plan.
- 3.9 The estimated costs set out below are early estimates and may be subject to change as more detailed plans are developed
- 3.10 It is anticipated that approximately £2 million will be needed to meet the temporary needs of Dorothy Stringer and Varndean Schools to accommodate the additional pupils from September 2018 and the previously agreed additional places in 2019 and 2020 at Dorothy Stringer School.
- 3.11 As part of the consultation on admission arrangements for 2019, Varndean School indicated that it would like to permanently increase its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 270 to 300. It is recommended that £5 million be allocated to meet the cost of this permanent expansion subject to a final agreement on this matter.
- 3.12 Blatchington Mill School has recently determined to increase its PAN with effect from September 2018. The Council has also recently agreed to the closing of its sixth form. The result of this is that the school will need some internal modifications. It is recommended that £0.5 million be allocated to meet the cost of these internal modifications.
- 3.13 Hove Park School is based on two sites approximately 1.5km apart. The governing body has recently made public plans to change the length of its key stage 3 and key stage 4 programmes and, as a result, change the age groups on each site. In order to make best use of the accommodation in the longer term and to maximise the number of places available in the future, it is recommended that £5 million is allocated for this purpose. The Council is aware of a number of planned housing developments in the area served by both Hove Park and Blatchington Mill.
- 3.14 Patcham High School recently indicated a willingness to increase its PAN to 225 and is admitting additional pupils in September 2018. The school would benefit from improved facilities to help to satisfactorily accommodate the additional school places and it is recommended that £1 million is allocated for this purpose.
- 3.15 Longhill High School has made sustained improvements in recent years and has offered places to pupils who live close to the school but outside of the city's boundaries. With anticipated house building in neighbouring authorities it is anticipated that the school would benefit from additional investment and £1million is allocated for this purpose.
- 3.16 This would leave £0.5 million (3%) of the £15 million as a contingency for the projects which at this stage is considered prudent.

### **School Condition Funding**

- 3.17 Since the preparation of the original report to CYPS the Department for Education has finalised the School Condition Allocations for all Local Authorities. This funding is allocated on a formulaic basis and therefore changes in pupil numbers can have an impact on the final amounts. We were anticipating approximately £4.815 million however we received £5.008 million, an increase of £192,682. This additional funding will be used to address the next most urgent priorities within the school estate.

### **Healthy Pupils Capital Funding**

- 3.18 In addition to this we have also been advised of a one off capital allocation for 2018/19 only. The government has made available capital funding generated from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy. The funding (the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund) is intended to improve children and young people's mental and physical health by improving and increasing availability to facilities for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing and medical conditions. This funding is available to support children of all ages.
- 3.19 We have been allocated £305,658 under this funding stream. Guidance on its use has been published and can be found at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/686163/Healthy\\_pupils\\_capital\\_fund\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686163/Healthy_pupils_capital_fund_guidance.pdf) It is intended to use this funding to undertake refurbishment of the ventilation system to Surrenden Pool which supports school swimming for 12 primary and secondary schools in the city.
- 3.20 Any residual funding will be used to support other school play space refurbishments.

### **Services to Schools Buy Back Option**

- 3.21 In the March reports it was detailed that the Services to Schools buy back option for the strategic property function was anticipated to raise £475,000 for the 2018/19 financial year. We are anticipating that the majority of schools will purchase this service and the income is now anticipated to be in the order of £550,000. As reported at the last CYP&S committee the additional funding will be used to ensure more works are carried out.
- 3.22 The additional funding ensures that the city can continue to maintain its education estate to a high standard and mitigates the risk of unanticipated and significant structural faults. At a time of significant pressure on school revenue budgets and following a number of years of reduced capital allocations this supports schools and will avoid greater deterioration as a result of short term funding decisions.

## **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Basic Need funding is allocated to Local Authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places for all school age pupils that require one. At the present time the pressure for school places is in the secondary sector. By using the funding in this way we will be making the best use of the accommodation within the city and ensuring sufficient school places in the secondary sector.

- 4.2 Proposals will be subject to planning permission which may require alternative proposals to be delivered to deliver the overarching improvement in school buildings.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 There has been no specific consultation regarding the content of this report. There was however considerable public consultation on the matter of secondary school admissions in the autumn term 2017. When an individual project is developed the necessary consultation is undertaken and reported to the relevant committee.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Council is able to consider the re-profiling of its Basic Need capital allocation as a result of the decision taken regarding the new secondary Free School. Following the meeting of the PR&G committee on 29 March it has been recommended that the council utilise some of the available funding to provide temporary additional places at Dorothy Stringer School from September 2018. The balance of the funding is to be used to maximise the number of school places in the city for the foreseeable future. This should be based on pupils projections and the housing developments required by the City Plan
- 6.2 The proposed Capital Investment Programme will enable the Council to continue to ensure that we can provide sufficient school places across the city and improve the condition of our education property portfolio.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The report sets out the allocation of that part of the Basic Need grant funding allocated between 2015/16 and 2017/18 that was previously earmarked for purchasing a site for a new secondary school for the city. Basic Need funding is provided to ensure there are sufficient school places for every school age child in the city that requires one. The £15million Basic Need capital funding has been reported to both Budget Council and CYPS Committee and included within the available resources for investment into the Education Capital Investment Programme. Paragraphs 3.10 to 3.16 detail the estimated profile of spend for expansion across the schools identified. A balance of £0.5million will be held as contingency and the costs will be subject to detailed plans being developed.

- 7.2 The report also covers the allocation of £305,658 under the Healthy Pupil Capital Fund. The HPCF is intended 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 wellbeing and medical conditions. This has been included within the Education Capital Investment Programme and the increased resources available for Schools Condition Funding and Services to Schools Buy Back will be incorporated into the Education Capital Investment Programme to assist with the improvement and maintenance of the schools estate.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen Date: 18/04/18

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Particular projects may give rise to specific issues which will be covered by individual reports at future meetings.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 17/04/18

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this programme which would impact disproportionately on any defined groups. New and refurbished buildings will conform to all relevant regulations and be fully accessible.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. The environmental impacts of individual schemes are reported to Members when the detailed report is submitted to Policy, Resources and Growth Committee for final approval. The detailed planning of projects at educational establishments will take account of the implications of Brighton & Hove's policies in relation to sustainability issues generally.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Various Implications

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. None

### **Background Documents**

1. None

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 The detailed planning of projects will take account of security issues

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 There are no risk issues in terms of resources or risks to children as a result of this proposal

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 The addition of a Healthy Pupil Capital Fund allows the Council to consider how it can utilise the capital allocation to support the improvement of children and young people's mental and physical health within the parameters of what is permissible as detailed in central government guidance.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The Capital Maintenance Grant identified in this report is evidence of the government's continuing support for the Council's work as a Local Education Authority. The Basic Need Funding is indicative that the DfE understands the issues of primary and secondary places we face in the city.