

2017-18 STRATEGIC REVIEW OF SEND PROVISION

Report of the Head of Education and Learning

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Cabinet

- Endorses the recommendations in the 2017-18 SEND Strategic Review and Development Plan;
- Approves to increase the 2018-19 Planning Transportation and Environment Capital Programme by £749,285 and the allocation of this grant as set out in Appendix B;
- Approve, where required, the commencement of the statutory consultation on the support centres as detailed in Appendix C;
- Note proposals for Marland School Day provision and Charlton Lodge, Tiverton in 2.4 and 2.5 respectfully.

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#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Devon's Multi-Agency Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) 2017-2020 sets six strategic priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEN & disabilities and their families.
- 1.2 The Plan confirms the overarching aspiration that learners with SEN will have access to good or better provision in their local community and commits to reviewing SEN provision annually to ensure it is in the right location, of sufficient quality and that there is a good match between demand and supply.
- 1.3 Alongside this, the Department for Education has required all Local Authorities to undertake a strategic review and allocated capital funding to support recommendations arising from this piece of work

#### **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 The 2017-18 Strategic Review of SEND Provision is attached in Appendix A and will be published on the SEND Local Offer website.

- 2.2 The Plan details the specific work that has been undertaken to formulate the final recommendations and the reasons why they are considered priority areas for future work.
- 2.3 The Department for Education has allocated Devon the Special Provision Fund, a three-year allocation of £2,247,854, £749,285 per year. It is proposed that these funds will sit within the PTE Capital Programme and be allocated as summarised in Appendix B. To support schools, it is proposed in the first year to allocate £350,000 for schools, in partnership with the 0-25 team, to bring forward proposals to support learners with Special Education Needs. These projects will be subject to further Member approval as and when required.
- 2.4 The Plan highlights the review undertaken on Resource Bases within Devon's schools to ensure they are meeting the needs of Devon learners and represent good value for money. It can be seen that due to low numbers, little or no parental preference and the intention to support learners in their local schools there is no longer demand for some centres. The future of these on the basis of decommissioning in 2019 will be subject to consultation, where required, as detailed in Appendix C.
- 2.5 The Plan provides the evidence to increase provision to support students with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs. Discussions are ongoing with the Governing Body of Marland School, a Trust School, and they are able to bring forward proposals to expand Marland Day provision in North Devon and extend the age to support primary aged students. The final decision, following the consultation, will sit with the Local Authority.
- 2.6 In respect of new provision, the Plan confirms the proposal to increase Special School provision at Charlton Lodge in Tiverton which is already funded within the capital programme. There are ongoing discussions with existing special school providers regarding the potential delivery model for that provision. However, it may be there is a need to bring in a new provider via a presumption Free School proposal and therefore an approval to commence this process may be brought forward early in the Spring through a Cabinet Member Decision.

### **3. Consultations**

- 3.1 The Review details the consultation undertaken to support its development as well as recommendations for future engagement, in particular with young people and parents/carers. The consultation engaged with children, parents/carers as well as providers with the findings published on the SEND Local Offer Website
- 3.2 In addition, Children's Scrutiny and the SEND Improvement Board have been briefed on the plan's development. Over and above direct consultation with schools, the School Organisation Capital and Admissions have been briefed on developments

### **4. Financial Considerations**

- 4.1 Revenue: There are no direct implications on revenue funding although the plan highlights the financial challenges on the High Needs Block and how

recommendations are aligned to reducing the pressures on this fund. Proposals are also targeted at reducing the costs of Home to School Transport.

Capital: The DfE has allocated Devon £2,247,854 capital funding over three years.

## **5. Sustainability Considerations**

- 5.1 Proposals within the plan are targeted at providing, where possible, local provision for local children as well as support students become independent and into employment.

## **6. Equality Considerations**

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/ new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

An impact assessment has been prepared, a copy of which has been circulated to Cabinet Members and is available at **TO BE INSERTED**

## **7. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations.

## **8. Risk Management Considerations**

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position

No risks have been identified.

## **10. Public Health Impact**

The proposals take into account the requirements and health and wellbeing of its local community. In addition, the report takes into account the

recommendations contained within the public health and the engagement report from the Community Health & Wellbeing Services for Children & Young People in Devon – ‘Shaping Future Services’ (draft engagement report, October 2017) and responses from Social Care, Education and Health professionals.

**11. Summary**

- 11.1 The Strategic Review of SEND Provision has provided a targeted focus for delivering the objectives within the Devon’s Multi-Agency Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs (SEND) 2017 - 2020.
- 11.2 The specific recommendations in this report are those that require Cabinet approval for them to be implemented.

Dawn Stabb

**Electoral Divisions:** All

Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

Chief Officer for Childrens Services: Jo Olsson

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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| BACKGROUND PAPER | DATE | FILE REFERENCE |
|------------------|------|----------------|
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## Proposed Allocation of Special Provision Fund

|                                                          |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>2018-19 Budget</b>                                    | <b>£749,285</b> |
|                                                          |                 |
| <b>Proposed Allocation</b>                               |                 |
| Marland Day – expansion of provision                     | £150,000        |
| Ratcliffe School – Design Feed Expand to 190 Design Fees | £100,000        |
| Charlton Lodge – Additional Allocation                   | £149,285        |
| Schools Fund – to be allocated                           | £350,000        |
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>£749,285</b> |

**CONSULTATION PROPOSALS ON RESOURCE BASES**

| <b>Resource Base</b>                  | <b>School</b>                               | <b>Proposal</b>                                                      | <b>Rationale</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Speech and Language</b>            | Orchard Vale Primary, Barnstaple            | Consult on Closure 2019                                              | No children currently on roll and lack of parental choice/preference due to location. Equity of provision and need to support learners in local school rather than bespoke centre.     |
| <b>Speech &amp; Language</b>          | Newtown Primary, Exeter                     | Consult on Closure 2019                                              | Due to lack of demand and equity of provision, in particular parent's concerns of travel distance for KS1 students. Services to support children in their local school being developed |
| <b>Specific Learning Difficulties</b> | Queen Elizabeth Community College, Crediton | Consult on Closure 2019                                              | Equity of service, only students in locality have benefitted from provision. Staff now providing outreach through Babcock.                                                             |
| <b>Hearing Impairment</b>             | East the Water Primary, Bideford            | Consult on Closure 2019                                              | Due to lack of demand. Advisory teacher element of service incorporated into Babcock service.<br>No children currently attending                                                       |
| <b>Hearing Impairment</b>             | Bideford College, Bideford                  | Consult on Closure 2019                                              | Due to lack of demand. No children attending centre.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Hearing Impairment</b>             | Clyst Vale Community College, Broadclyst    | Consult on reduced numbers increased offer to support Multi-Sensory. | Lack of demand for Hearing Impairment together with need to provide more multi-sensory services. Outreach for Hearing Impairment managed through Babcock, equity of service            |