

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

Subject: Allocation of additional funding for Oakley (Special) School nursery project due to unforeseen cost pressures

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee – Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 23 November 2016 & Children Young People and Education Cabinet Committee 22 June 2017

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: Catherine Rankin, Tunbridge Wells South

Summary: To set out the unforeseen cost pressures of the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School and to seek additional capital funding.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- (i) Allocate £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

At its meeting of 23 November 2016, the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee considered and endorsed proposals to establish a nursery at Oakley (Special) School. The Cabinet Member subsequently agreed the proposals, allocating £586,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to meet the anticipated cost.

Officers implemented the proposals by commissioning GEN2 to provide the necessary nursery building and associated external works. GEN2 have subsequently advised of an unforeseen increase in the cost of the scheme, necessitating additional funding of £114,000 to complete the scheme. A report regarding the additional costs and proposed decision to allocate additional capital

funding was considered and endorsed by the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee at a meeting held on 22 June 2017.

2. Background

For a number of years the County Council has had an arrangement with Barnardo's to provide nursery provision for Tunbridge Wells children with complex special educational needs (SEND). The existing contract (which for education covers outreach and nursery provision) is coming to an end and cannot be extended. Kent County Council must have arrangements in place for 1 September 2017 for the children who will no longer be at Barnardo's Ravensdale Nursery.

Oakley School is currently the only district Special school which does not deliver nursery provision from age 2. Oakley School serves children with complex needs from across Tunbridge Wells with high quality local specialist provision. Oakley was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2015 and is a popular and successful school. To ensure the needs of children are met locally the proposal was that Oakley School should extend its offer to admit children from age 2 as other district Special schools do.

3. Financial, Legal and Equalities Implications

Financial Implications: The Cabinet Member decision provided an allocation for the project of £586,000. As a consequence of unforeseen cost pressures, an additional allocation of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget is needed to complete the programme of works. These costs became apparent as detailed site surveys and the tender process were undertaken and relate to the costs of essential additional ground and drainage works. In the event that the costs of the scheme exceed the total funding allocation by more than 10%, a further decision will be required.

Legal Implications: None

Equalities Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the original proposal.

4. Kent Policy Framework

These proposals will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that Kent's young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy" as set out in 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim to provide sufficient places where they are needed.

5. Views

The View of the Local Member for Tunbridge Wells South, Catherine Rankin

The Local Member was consulted on this proposal and provided the following comment: 'I am delighted that there will be nursery provision in Tunbridge wells, but disappointed at the large cost over-run.'

The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal as necessary to deliver on the decision to establish specialist nursery provision at Oakley School.

6. Conclusions

This report highlights the cost pressures with the Oakley (Special) School programme of works and sets out the need for an additional allocation of £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision.

7. Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- (i) Allocate £114,000 from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the establishment of nursery provision at Oakley (Special) School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

8. Background Documents (plus links to document)

Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-2021
http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2017-21.pdf

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-children-young-people-SEN-Disabilities.pdf

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