

CABINET

DATE	16 th February 2022
REPORT OF	Councillor Ian Lindley Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Joanne Hewson Executive Director for People, Health and Care
SUBJECT	Increasing Pupil Provision at Beacon Academy
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	GENERAL EXCEPTION – Not included on the Forward Plan and to be considered under the General Exception rules as laid out in the Constitution.

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient and suitable pupil places for its children.

Pupil predictions have identified future shortfalls of pupil places to meet the needs of the immediate community and any new housing provision as identified within the Local Plan, which is prevalent to that immediate area of the town.

The identified programme of Basic Need (provision of new pupil places) will also contribute directly towards the Council's strategic priority of supporting the development of 'Stronger Communities' by providing a fit for purpose service model aligned to the use of physical property which continues to support communities across the Borough.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to implement the recommendations of approving the spend of a sum of the Local Authority's Basic Need Government Grant allocation within the Council's school estate, specifically at Beacon Academy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It's recommended that Cabinet:

1. approves the programme of a new pupil places scheme at Beacon Academy to create a further 150 places to ensure that the Local Authority has sufficient and suitable school places to meet its statutory responsibility as per the Education Act 1996.
2. delegates authority to the Executive Director for People, Health and Care (as Director for Children's Services) and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to so implement and take all ancillary action arising.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient and suitable provision of school pupil places for its residents. The national increase in the birth rate has resulted in a significant increase in pupil numbers which are now starting to impact upon secondary provision.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 The rising number of the pupil population and the Borough's future housing requirements and aspirations, as detailed within the Local Plan, have resulted in a need to ensure sufficiency of pupil place provision for current and future residents.
- 1.2 Rising pupil numbers are now beginning to impact upon the LA's secondary provision. In the first instance, the Cleethorpes area of the borough requires additional pupil places. Beacon Academy is identified as a potential site for growth, and the Local Authority is looking to increase the provision by a further 150 secondary pupil places in the first instance which is required to meet projected capacity over the next five years.
- 1.3 This school site is identified within Wave 2 of the Government's 500 New Schools Programme. This Cabinet report is requesting that up to £3.5million (the DfE are indicating a sum of between £3 to £3.5 million will be required to support the required additional build) of its Basic Need allocation be utilised by the DfE to ensure that a 750 place school is built to meet the required need as opposed to a 600 place provision.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Local Authority will find itself in a position of having insufficient and unsuitable pupil places, thus not meeting its statutory duty as per the Education Act 1996 within the Cleethorpes Area of the borough without maximising this opportunity to provide the Local Authority with a new fit for purpose 750 place school for its pupils and residents as opposed to a 600 place school.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Other schools in the area of required growth have been consulted, however the immediate need is in the Cleethorpes area of the borough and all providers within this area of the town which in the first instance makes Beacon Academy the priority for expansion through supporting the DfE programme.
- 3.2 Ensuring sufficient pupil places across all of its school estate is a statutory duty of Local Authorities, and Central Government provides all Local Authorities with an allocation based upon the annual School Capacity Return (SCAP) specifically for the purpose of supporting this need.
- 3.3 An option to do nothing would result in a lack of pupil places and an inability to fulfil the statutory duty and a risk of school closure if priority condition matters

are not addressed.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The positive benefit to the Council's reputation will be the continued availability of sufficient and suitable pupil places for the children of the borough within their own locality in a new fit for purpose school building.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The LA currently receives an annual Government Basic Need Grant allocation.
- 5.2 The Basic Need allocation for 2020/21 of £4,390,000 is derived from the annual Schools Capacity return, which captures current pupil numbers across all the Local Authority's school estate (except nursery schools, special schools and pupil referral units). The return also captures future predictions and new online housing developments.
- 5.3 There is currently no call on Council resources for the programme identified within this report. The DfE have requested a sum of up to £3.5m towards the cost of providing an additional 150 places within their new build programme.
- 5.4 The creation of additional new pupil places will result in additional teaching and education related positions within the borough.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATION

There is a statutory call on Local Authorities to ensure the provision of sufficient and suitable pupil places. By approving the capital spend to support the DfE with a new fit for purpose 750 place school, the pupils and staff benefit from a 21st century school environment, which increases aspirations and curriculum opportunities for pupils. The benefit of monetary support to enable the DfE to build a 750 place school, means that for the current students their education journey will not be disrupted by further building expansion, as the need for the places would still be required if this call for a contribution was refused.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The DfE are committed to building wherever possible carbon neutral schools.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The School Organisation Plan was presented to Scrutiny January 2019 and captured within the plan is the need to grow education sites in line with demand for new pupil places.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed works would be funded through Schools Basic Need grant allocations.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation to approve the scheme will enable the Local Authority to

comply with its statutory duty pursuant to the Education Act 1996 and is consistent with the School Organisation Plan.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards are potentially affected as the school estate serves the entire borough

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

14.1. Christine Scott, Schools Estate Manager, 323152

COUNCILLOR IAN LINDLEY
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION