**Wirral Capital Allocation and Planning for Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities**

Wirral is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient, high quality Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision to meet the needs of Wirral’s children and young people with special educational needs. This commitment is outlined in Wirral’s Children and Families strategy which states that ‘we will develop ambitious and inclusive plans to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and / or disabilities, using their plans and national best practice to inform our local approach to commissioning school places.’

In light of the Council’s 2020 pledges and its statutory duty to review school provision to ensure that it is responsive to needs an initial review was undertaken. An initial internal review of Special Education was conducted between May and December 2017 and this primarily examined the pressures within the specialist and special school provision. Following on from this piece of work and the responses received, the Local Authority has concluded that a further, more in-depth piece of work is required. Whilst there was a large appetite from mainstream provision to cater for a changing group of SEND it was identified that additional support, both in terms of resources and in terms of support would be required to enable this to happen. The external review will advise the Local Authority and inform the number and type of provision that can be provided for within the mainstream sector and what other provision will need to be commissioned from either specialist or special school sector.

In conjunction to this review taking place, the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families announced a £215m capital grant for local authorities to invest in, and improve, the quality and range of provision for children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disabilities aged 0 to 25.

Wirral have been allocated £166,000 of funding each year for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 – a total of £500,00, from this capital fund.

There is an expectation that Local Authorities will work with maintained schools, academies, free schools and academies to agree how special educational needs should be met in their area including considering the best ways of supporting mainstream schools to meet these needs.

As part of the external review the Local Authority is asking the consultants to consider how this money should be allocated in light of the recommendations of the review. The consultants will consult with parent and carers, schools, settings and others on how this funding allocation should be used. They will also explore possible collaboration projects that might take place with neighbouring local authorities and commissioning groups to enable special provision to be commissioned and funded efficiently.

Wirral has always been committed to developing provision for those children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Since 2016 Wirral has committed to School Capital schemes and these have included an element of SEN accessibility funding for example: access ramps, sensory rooms, sensory equipment, hygiene rooms, accessibility toilets and showers and improved internal space.

It is currently difficult to complete the section ‘other investment the Local Authority plans to make in SEND Capital up until 2021’ as the Local Authority has only received 12 months of Capital funding [SCA-School Capital Allocation] for 2018/19. As we have not been informed of further Capital allocations we cannot plan too far.

The Local Authority has several proposed Capital projects for 2018/19 which may include an element of accessibility and have allocated Capital to each project.

Scheme dates from 2016 to present are:

1. **Elleray Park School**:

*Phase 1*; £1.2m total scheme including hygiene room, pupil toilets, resource area, 4 new classrooms.

*Phase 2*: £250k total scheme including 1 new class-base, hygiene room, ramps.

1. **Stanley school**:

*Phase 1*; £750k total scheme including 2 classrooms, 2 sensory rooms, 2 group rooms, ramps and accessible toilet.

*Phase 2*: £60k total scheme including sensory garden with accessibility for all disabilities.

1. **Meadowside school:**

£1m total scheme including new hydro pool, changing facilities, showers [all disabilities] accessible toilets, new plant room.

1. **Orrets Meadow:**

£35k total scheme including classroom and resource area re-design including improved accessibility.

1. **Clare Mount school:**

*Phase 1*; £200k total scheme including alterations to dining hall, main entrance including accessibility, office, hall windows and doors inc ramps, corridor windows and doors including ramps, 2 class-bases, small group room and external doors.

*Phase 2*; £20k total scheme including form specialist base and improved access, window and door installation.

1. **Observatory school:**

£75k total scheme including alterations to classrooms and mobile teaching space, corridors, SEN base and accessibility.

1. **Kilgarth school:**

£50k total scheme including re-design/refurbish annexe building for small group work and other activities.

1. **Foxfield school:**

New school funded and design/constructed through DfE - Priority School Building Programme [PSBP]. Local Authority contributed £1m towards additional pupil places and hydro pool and changing area including access.

Allocation of the 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21 funds will be decided once the external review of provision has been completed. Full consultation will take place before the money is allocated. A full update will be published once the external review is completed.