

15 January 2018**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING & SKILLS****'SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL GRANT' – CONSULTATION OUTCOME****Purpose of Report**

1. The report updates the Committee on the outcome of the consultation regarding the allocation of the new 'Specialist Provision Capital Grant' being made available to local authorities by Central Government from April 2018.
2. The report seeks approval for the Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Capital Grant to be spent on creating additional capacity within existing state funded schools in Nottinghamshire, in areas of highest need, in accordance with the findings of the consultation with stakeholders.
3. The report also requests that these findings are published on the Local Offer website, along with the other requirements (the 'Short Plan') stipulated by the Department for Education, as part of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant process, by Wednesday 14 March 2018

Information and Advice

4. In order to access Nottinghamshire's allocation of the national £215 million 'Specialist Provision Capital Grant' (£848,601 per year for three years, commencing in 2018), the Council has to adhere to a number of conditions. These were presented to and approved by the Children and Young People's Committee in October 2017.
5. A key condition of the grant being made is that the Council must consult with a range of stakeholders, including children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, their families and those who support them.
6. The Council ran an eight week consultation which received 128 responses. Parents and carers provided almost a third or all responses (41). Professionals working in mainstream and specialist SEND settings gave the next highest response rate at 34 and 32 respectively. 10 respondents were children and/or young people, and one was from an independent non-maintained setting. 10 respondents identified as 'other' represented retired professionals from social care and education, Council support services and residents.
7. The consultation consisted of three core questions, each with the option to add a text comment and a final opportunity to give any additional comments related to the topic. They were:

- Q1. Should this fund be used in the areas of highest strategic need within the County?
- Q2. Should this fund be used to finance capital programmes in independent non-maintained settings?
- Q3. Should this fund be used only to generate additional SEND capacity in existing Nottinghamshire schools?

8. In respect of question one, 73% of respondents agreed that the grant should be used to address the highest areas of need within the County, as found in the most recent SEND review. This compares with 8% who felt that the grant should not be spent in line with these priorities. The remaining 19% neither agreed nor disagreed or did not answer the question.
9. In respect of question two, 14% of respondents agreed that the grant should be used to pay for capital improvements to independent non-maintained schools. This compares with 59% who felt that the grant should not be used to fund independent schools. The remaining 27% neither agreed nor disagreed or did not answer the question.
10. In respect of question three, 69% of respondents agreed that the grant should be used to create additional SEND capacity at existing Nottinghamshire schools. This compares with 15% who felt that the grant should not be used only to create SEND capacity in existing schools. The remaining 16% neither agreed nor disagreed or did not answer the question. Additional information and qualitative themes are contained in **Appendix 1**.
11. To summarise, the consultation shows that stakeholders believe the Nottinghamshire allocation of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant should be spent to address recommendations made as a result of the Council's most recent review of SEND, creating additional capacity within existing state funded schools in Nottinghamshire, in areas of highest need.

Other Options Considered

12. This is a national requirement in order to access the Specialist Provision Capital Grant and as such there are no other options to consider.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. In order to access the Nottinghamshire allocation of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. By approving this report the Council will be able to complete all related tasks in order to access the Specialist Provision Capital Grant, which will lead to a total of £2.54 million being released over a three year period, from April 2018.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) gives approval for the Special Educational Needs & Disability Capital Grant to be spent on creating additional capacity within existing state funded schools in Nottinghamshire, in areas of highest need, in accordance with the findings of the consultation with stakeholders
- 2) requests that these findings are published on the Local Offer website, along with the other requirements (the 'Short Plan') stipulated by the Department for Education, as part of the Specialist Provision Capital Grant process, by Wednesday 14 March 2018.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 20/12/17)

16. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 02/01/18)

17. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 15 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

New three year national capital funding programme, 'Special Provision Capital Grant' – Nottinghamshire's allocation – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 16 October 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1075