



Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Shadow Executive Committee

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Report Subject	The allocation of Basic Need Grant to enable the expansion of school places in Bournemouth
Meeting date	7 November 2018
Report Author	Felicity Draper
Status	Public
Classification	For consultation
Key Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>This report seeks to consult the Shadow Authority on an allocation of £1.4 million Basic Need Grant funding between three academy trusts to enable the expansion of four schools in Bournemouth in 2019.</p> <p>The proposed expansions will ensure that the Council's statutory responsibility to ensure sufficient school places is met.</p>
Recommendations	That the Shadow Executive Committee as a consultee is asked to consider and comment on the attached proposals to allocate £1.4million of Basic Need Grant to facilitate the expansion of Avonbourne College, Bournemouth School Bournemouth School for Girls and Harewood College.

Reason for Recommendations	<p>Local Authorities with responsibility for Education Services have a statutory duty to ensure the provision of sufficient school places.</p> <p>Additional capacity is required in the secondary phase of education to meet demographic growth in Bournemouth.</p> <p>Allocation of Basic Need Grant to three academy trusts will facilitate their provision of an additional six and a half forms of secondary entry commencing in September 2019. This will ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet the forecast rise in demand.</p>
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Background detail

1. Bournemouth Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for the resident children of Bournemouth. The birth rate in the Borough has been rising rapidly since 2005, leading to in the first instance, a need for a significant number of additional primary school places. This pressure will be shortly moving into the secondary phase and extra capacity is thus required.
2. Bournemouth Borough Council's School Place Planning Programme Board has agreed that to meet the raised level of demand a variety of additional provision should be created. A new Free School – Livingstone Academy – is being built and funded by the Department for Education and this will eventually provide 5 forms of the forecast additional 9 forms per year of secondary entry places needed as well as 2 forms per year of primary entry and sixth form provision.
3. The remaining forms of entry, including sufficient, should there be a lengthy delay in Livingstone Academy opening, will be provided through the expansion of the existing academy estate. The schools agreed to expand are Bournemouth School, Bournemouth School for Girls, Avonbourne College and Harewood College.
4. A Business Case for the allocation of £1.4million of Basic Need Grant was recommended for Council approval by Bournemouth Borough Council's Capital Executive Gateway Board on 27 September 2018 and is attached. It is proposed to refer it for consideration by the Cabinet of Bournemouth Borough Council on 7 November 2018 and to full Council for approval on 4 December 2018.

Consultation

5. Statutory public consultation has been undertaken by the Academy Trusts. The School Place Planning Board and Executive Gateway Board in Bournemouth include Member and officer representation for finance, education, planning and transport, project management, communications, property services and schools.

Options

6. The preferred option to expand existing schools is the only available option given additional places are forecast to be required and the opening date of Livingstone Academy is provisionally scheduled for September 2020.

Summary of Finance and Resourcing Implications

7. The Council is in receipt of sufficient Basic Need Grant from the Department for Education to support these schemes. Funding will be allocated to the respective Academy Trusts. The funding split within the attached Business Case at **Appendix 1** between Avonbourne and Harewood Academies is a notional split as they are co-located and sit within one multi-academy trust.

Summary of Legal Implications

8. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places. The attached proposal ensures that this council duty is met. The relevant academies have carried out the required statutory processes to set higher published admission numbers and will take through the necessary temporary or permanent changes to their funding agreements with the Department for Education.
9. Proposed building work will be subject to appropriate planning approval processes.

Summary of Human Resources Implications

10. There are no direct Human Resources implications.

Summary of Environmental Impact

11. By creating additional capacity near to demand reduces the need for travel across the conurbation to access a school place. A more detailed assessment will be carried out in relation to each project once developed.

Summary of Equalities and Diversity Impact

12. By providing additional places across four schools for statutory school age children extra capacity is available to all children.

Summary of Risk Assessment

13. The major risk to the Council is if extra capacity is not in place it will be failing in its statutory duty to ensure all children can access a school place for September 2019.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 Business Case Allocation of £1,400,000 Basic Need Grant for Secondary School Expansion