

**DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL FUND
Initial plan updated in April 2018**

1 BACKGROUND

In August 2017, the Department for Education announced funding for local authorities to help create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This funding is not ring fenced but allocation decisions need to be consulted upon. This funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25.

Tameside Council has been allocated £211,254 per year for three years from 2018 giving a total allocation of £633,762.

2 CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS

The funding allocation is intended for children and young people with an EHC plan for who the authority is responsible. Local authorities can invest their share of the Special Provision Capital Fund in;

- Creating new or additional places at good or outstanding provision
- Improving facilities or developing new facilities.
- This can be through;
- Expansion to existing provision at the same site or a different site
- Reconfiguring provision to make available the space for the additional places or facilities
- Re-purposing areas so that they meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Other capital transactions that result in new (additional) places or facilities' improvements
- Investing in provision that is located in another local authority where this supports providing good outcomes for children in their area
- The funding can be allocated to the following types of provision;
- Mainstream schools and colleges
- Special units or resourced provision
- Special schools or academies
- Pupil Referral Unit
- Alternative Provision
- Nursery or early years providers
- Other provision (that is attended by a pupil age 0-25 with an EHC plan)

3 SEN PLACES REVIEW

Tameside Council commissioned work to review SEN places in the borough. This has included looking at:

- An audit of current provision in special schools and resource bases within the borough both in primary and secondary phases
- Current demand for places in special schools and resource bases both in primary and secondary phases
- Identifying any gaps in provision and where there is an under use of current places

- Identifying where out of borough placements are being used and the need that is being met by out of borough placements
- the structure of specialist provision across the borough i.e. does TMBC have the right type of provision to meet the needs of children and young people in Tameside who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).
- Consulting with a wide range of parents on their views of current provision and
- Consulting with Headteachers and college leaders on their views of current provision and perceived gaps in provision
- Post 16 provision in the borough and an assessment of if this is meeting current demand
- Links to the Tameside area self assessment completed in the last academic year
- Making recommendations for action

This has been a complex review including extensive consultation with parents and schools. During the review the author met with parents/carers of children and young people who have SEND, engaged with the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), sought the views of and engaged directly with mainstream headteachers, special school headteachers and Teachers in Charge /Headteachers of Resource Base provision. The author also visited the majority of the specialist provisions (special schools and resource bases) within the borough. The author established a reference group of parents and the recommendations have been discussed and tested with the group on an on going basis. The full review will be made public later in 2018 and this document will be updated once agreed.

3 CAPITAL SPEND 2018

Due to the population increase in the borough over recent years and in line with mainstream schools, the two primary special schools in the borough Hawthorns Special School and Oakdale have seen an increase in their pupil numbers. The Council has increased accommodation at Oakdale Special School by creating two additional classrooms and following a review in 2016, plans were agreed to increase the accommodation at Hawthorn Special School also by two classrooms. It is planned that work will begin on this in summer 2018 and the Council's allocation for 2018 will be used against this project.

4 CAPITAL SPEND IN FUTURE YEARS

Once the SEN places review is complete, the recommendations will be considered by the Tameside's Strategic SEND Group which will inform the capital plan for future years. Recommendations are likely to include proposals to:

- Reorganise current resourced provision in primary schools to meet the needs of children and young people with ASD and SEMH
- Develop additional resourced provision in a mainstream primary school to meet the needs of children and young people with ASD and SEMH
- Develop additional resourced provision in a mainstream secondary school
- Develop more special school places including Post 16

The SEND capital allocation will be deployed to support these changes to provision.

5 TIMELINE

Timeline	Date
Publish plan of potential projects on Local Offer	14 March 2018

SEN Places review approved by SEND Board	Summer term 2018
First Tranche of funding received.	Summer 2018
LA to publish revised plan	March 2019
Second tranche of funding received	Summer 2019
LA to publish revised plan	March 2020
Third tranche of funding received	Summer 2020
LA to publish final plan	March 2021