

## Schools Forum - 10 December 2024

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Nottingham City SEND Sufficiency - update
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<b>Summary</b> To update members on SEND capital projects and sufficiency plans and Specialist School Place Numbers.	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
1	To note progress made on SEND capital projects, and towards SEND Sufficiency plans.
2	To agree to continue to the adopt the SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2023-28 (as detailed in the appendix to the report).

### 1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 In Nottingham, children with additional needs benefit from good and outstanding mainstream and special school provision. However, as is the case nationally, we are experiencing considerable growth in the numbers of young people identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities and there is insufficient capacity to meet this growing need in primary and secondary settings in the coming years.
- 1.2 At the current time, virtually all places in special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions within mainstream school (SRPs) are currently full. We are committed to supporting our schools and settings within the city as we believe that local provision offers the best outcomes for our children and young people.
- 1.3 The growing SEND cohort also brings financial pressure to the Council's revenue budget. However, with adequate long-term evidence-based planning, the Council can mitigate the impact on its revenue budget through invest to save capital investments that develop the SEND estate and create the capacity within our education system to continue to meet children and young people's needs effectively and as locally as possible.
- 1.4 Since the launch of the SEN sufficiency strategy 2023-2028, Nottingham's high needs DSG revenue position has changed. In 2023/24 financial year the council overspend in its high needs budget and was not able to commit any funds to reserves. A DSG funding paper is to be submitted which provides greater details on the DSG revenue position and its impact on the Sufficiency Strategy.

### 2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 In 2023, we consulted on the following proposals to expand Specialist SEND provision in Nottingham City.

Age range / type of provision	Type of need and scheme	Number of high needs places added and indicative date
Primary Specialist Resourced Provision	Specialist Resourced Provision to meet the needs of primary aged pupils with <b>Autism and moderate learning difficulties</b> . <b>Expansion and improvement</b> of existing on site provision will enhance the support and environment available to children who benefit from a mainstream environment but require additional intensive support.	8 primary aged places  Sept 2024
Primary Specialist Resourced Provision	Specialist Resourced Provision to meet the needs of primary aged pupils with <b>Autism and moderate learning difficulties</b> . This <b>new provision</b> will enhance the support and environment available to children who benefit from a mainstream environment but require additional intensive support.	8 primary aged places  Sept 2024
Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision	Specialist Resourced Provision to meet the needs of secondary aged pupils with <b>Autism and moderate learning difficulties</b> . This <b>new provision</b> will enhance the support and environment available to children who benefit from a mainstream environment but require additional intensive support.	24 secondary aged places  Sept 2024
Secondary Specialist Resourced Provision	Specialist Resourced Provision to meet the needs of secondary aged pupils with <b>Autism and moderate learning difficulties</b> . This <b>new provision</b> will enhance the support and environment available to children who benefit from a mainstream environment but require additional intensive support.	24 secondary aged places  Sept 2024
Special School expansion	Increasing special school provision for young people with complex learning needs. Whilst the proposals above for Specialist Resourced Provisions will enable more children and young people to be effectively supported in mainstream settings, there are still a number of children whose needs can best be met in special schools.	80 special school places  2024/25
NEST / Hospital & Home Education	New location for an existing facility	Existing provision is approx. 50 places

Age range / type of provision	Type of need and scheme	Number of high needs places added and indicative date
Alternative Provision	A full commissioning review of Alternative Provision will be undertaken, which is also likely to identify need and opportunities to improve provision for young people with significant Social Emotional and Mental Health challenges. There will be a focus on early intervention, intensive outreach support and reintegrating young people back into mainstream.	To be confirmed asap

- 2.2 The consultation showed that there was a high level of support for the priorities set out in the draft strategy document (attached). Respondents also generally felt that the actions presented in the consultation document to achieve the priorities were the right ones, while commenting that how they are implemented is key.
- 2.3 81% of respondents agreed with our broad priorities to enhance facilities in mainstream schools to ensure that young people with SEND have the best environment and resources to meet their needs, close to home within their local community. Also, to build on the special school expansions and additional Specialist Resourced Provisions within mainstream school, which have already been delivered in recent years.
- 2.4 11% neither agreed or disagreed, with a few comments stating that more detail is needed on what, where and how this will be delivered.
- 2.5 8% disagreed. The main points made by respondents who disagreed with the proposals were that schools are finding it very hard to recruit good quality support staff to enable the SEND pupils to access mainstream education, without disrupting the learning of the rest of the class. Existing support staff do not necessarily want to be 1-1 with SEND children. SEND pupils deserve the best possible education. So do the other 29 pupils in the class. Teachers are already stretched and being asked to do more than ever with less support.
- 2.6 Other points raised were:
- There needs to be more than the proposed extra capacity and the time frame is not sufficient because children and young people are being left behind in the meantime so there needs to be an emergency short term plan.
  - We work very hard in mainstream to accommodate SEND learners and feel that once we have decided that we can no longer meet needs, there should be an appropriate alternative rather than simply extending an already exhausted offer at mainstream.

- We need more specialist schools with specialist flexible tailored teaching - not units within mainstream settings which will still be trying to crowbar children into a mainstream agenda.

2.7 The feedback generally related to the following 6 overarching themes. Although there is clearly some overlap, a summary of the main points raised is set out below under each theme:

- Capacity, funding and other resources;
- Training, recruitment and retention (in line with regional & national trends);
- Support services for schools and pupils;
- Diagnosis, EHCPs and access / pathways;
- Alternative Provision and Exclusion;
- HHELC.

2.8 As an outcome of consultation the following projects make up the SEND Capital Programme including actual and forecasted costs:

Schemes	Funding		Total Scheme Cost	Comments
	Section 106	Hign Needs Capital Contribution		
Nethergate 2023		460000	£ 460,000.00	Complete
Djanogly Strelley	£779,313	400000	£ 1,179,313.00	Complete
Whitemoor Academy	£10,865	939135	£ 950,000.00	Complete
Contingency		115013	£ 115,013.00	
Nottingham Girls Academy	£1,084,950	£895,050	£ 1,980,000.00	RIBA 3
Fernwood Academy	£540,159	£2,209,841	£ 2,750,000.00	RIBA 3
Rise Park Primary	£58,165	1141835	£ 1,200,000.00	RiIBA 3
Glade Hill Primary	£58,165	1791835	£ 1,850,000.00	RIBA 3
Milford Academy		800000	£ 800,000.00	Feasibility
Greenfields Primary School	£302,818	57182	£ 360,000.00	
Rosehill Special School		£10,500,000.00	£ 10,500,000.00	Early Design
HHELC		£715,000.00	£ 715,000.00	Approved
Nethergate 6th form		£500,000.00	£ 500,000.00	Estimate
Nethergate classroom		£200,000.00	£ 200,000.00	Complete
AP free school		£500,000.00	£ 500,000.00	Estimate
Contingency		£319,289	£ 319,289.00	
	£2,834,435	£21,544,180	£24,378,615	
Available Funding		21544180		
Capital Balance		0		

### 3 Other options considered in making recommendations

3.1 Without adopting the current sufficiency strategy, we risk continued rises in permanent exclusions, greater numbers of pupils out of education and higher numbers of pupils being placed in expensive independent specialist placements or alternative provision.

3.2 Interim solutions to grow capacity have been adopted year on year since 2021, such as agreements with specialist schools to accommodate additional children. Opportunities to continue to grow provision via such arrangements have been exhausted.

## 4 Outcomes/deliverables

- 4.1 The SEND Capital works are due to deliver the following capacity, please note, that the capacity is listed as total capacity once the provision is full. Each setting will adopt a gradual increase from their opening date to offer supported transitions to new pupils.

### Primary Phase

School/Academy Name	Opening Date	Provision Capacity	LA commissioned places
Djanogly Strelley Academy	Sep-24	16	8
Whitemoor Primary Academy	Jan-24	10	0
Milford Primary Academy	Sep-25	16	8
Glade Hill Primary School	Nov-25	16	8
Rise Park Primary Academy	Oct-25	10	0
Greenfields Primary Academy	TBC	8	0

### Secondary Phase

School/Academy Name	Opening Date	Provision Capacity	LA commissioned places
The Fernwood School	Jan-26	24	20
Nottingham Girls Academy	Jan-26	20	10

### Specialist

School/Academy Name	Opening Date	Provision Capacity	LA commissioned places
Rosehill	Sep-26	80	80
Nethergate Academy	Sep-25	24	24

In total, these phases of the SEND Capital program will create access to specialised educational provision for 224 pupils, with 158 of those high need's placements, commissioned for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans.

## 5 Consideration of Risk

- 5.1 Each project has a contingency built into the build; however escalating building costs risk us needing to use 2025 capital allocations to complete these schemes of work.
- 5.2 From a revenue perspective, the risk of not completing these projects will require more pupils to be placed in expensive independent school placements at higher costs to the high needs' revenue budget. See point 6 below.

## 6 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 6.1 High Needs Revenue expenditure relating to these capital projects is from a planned use of DSG Reserves. Please refer to the '2023/24 DSG Revenue Outturn Report to

be presented at Schools Forum on the 10/12/24' for revenue financial comments impacting this report.

## **7 Legal colleague comments**

7.1 No comments sought due to this paper being an update for Schools Forum.

## **8 Other relevant comments**

8.1 No comments sought due to this paper being an update for Schools Forum.

## **9 Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

9.1 N/A

## **10 Social value considerations**

10.1 N/A

## **11 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 An EIA is not required.

## **12 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

12.1 A DPIA is not required.

## **13 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

13.1 A DPIA is not required.

## **14 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

14.1 SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2028.

14.2 SEND Sufficiency consultation report.