

FOLLOW-UP: MATTERS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM THE LAST MEETING

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REASON FOR REPORT

To follow-up any clarifications and information requests agreed by the Committee undertaking their role scrutinising the decisions and reports from the last Cabinet meeting. These matters are for noting only and not for call-in. If a particular Member wishes for further clarification on the information provided below, this will be for the Committee to determine.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

That the Committee note the information provided.

CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2021

The Committee gave consideration to the reports and the decisions made by Cabinet at this meeting and sought further information or clarifications in the reports as set out below.

ITEM 7 – BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 8)

Committee Clarification	Officer response
<p>In para 134 (shown below), the Committee noted the difficulties in planning for the costs for SEN spend, however, it also noted there has been a consistent underestimate of the costs.</p> <p>The Committee have requested if officers can provide information on the basis on which officers plan estimates for expected costs for new SEN pupils over the year?</p> <p><i>Para 134. There are still a number of SEN pupils awaiting a school placement and whilst an estimate of the cost of this has been included in the current projection, the actual cost of these placements is not yet known and so there may be a further increase to the total expenditure on SEN placements. In addition, the local authority is often required to provide specialist tuition for SEN pupils without a school placement. The total cost on this tuition has increased significantly over the last twelve</i></p>	<p>Officers plan estimates for the expected cost for new SEND pupils in a number of ways, including oversight over the decision-making processes of assessments and through participation at the SEND Sufficiency Strategy Group.</p> <p>Regarding the oversight of growth, SEND panel decisions are being reviewed monthly to ensure that officers are able to forecast growth at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>At present, based on the first term's requests for assessment, we are projecting a growth of between 5-8% for the full year. This is in part due to a strengthened SEND panel with strong wider stakeholder involvement (including health, social care and school leads) and due to the early support funding (ESF) that education settings can access as</p>

<p><i>months with the current projection that there will be a £325k overspend in this area which accounts for some of the month 8 adverse movement.</i></p>	<p>opposed to via statutory assessments for a EHC plan.</p> <p>The growth in EHCPs has continued at a significant rate, higher than previously anticipated. Between the period of July 2019 – July 2020, Hillingdon saw a rate of growth of 17% against a national growth rate of 10%. There is the added difficulty that as most in-borough special schools are at capacity and the lack of local provision can lead to periods of specialist tuition followed by more costly placements in the Independent sector.</p> <p>Typically the average cost of a residential setting is £50,000 per placement per academic year. Additionally, an increase in complexity of need means that some pupils needs cannot be met other than in high cost specialist placements. At present, approximately 70% of the cohort accessing an independent placement cost more than a Band 9, the highest local rate of banding, which does demonstrate the more complex needs that are being supported in independent settings.</p> <p>Work is on-going through the SEND Sufficiency Strategy Group to address the gaps in the provision locally and to ensure that the local authority is setting out priority work relating to SEND.</p>
<p>On Para 140 (shown below) – the Committee would like to know if the Council is making any representations to the Government for this £80 per pupil funding catch-up fund to be increased in light of the pandemic?</p> <p><i>Para. 140 - The DfE has confirmed that the £650m universal catch-up premium funding will be paid directly to schools through the 2020/21 academic year, on a per pupil basis. Mainstream schools will receive £80 per pupil, with Special Schools receiving £240 per place. Schools will have flexibility to use this funding which should be used for specific activities to support pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months. In addition, schools will be able to access £350m of funding through a National Tutoring Programme to</i></p>	<p>The Council is working closely with all schools in the Borough to ensure that Government funding to address any gaps in educational progress and to provide support to pupils is used effectively. All schools are required to publish a plan for the use of the additional funding and how they will evaluate progress. This is being reviewed by the Council.</p> <p>Should there be a need for additional funding this will be raised with the Regional Schools Commissioner.</p>

<p><i>provide additional targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help.</i></p>	
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ITEM 9 – DISPOSAL OF 2 DWELLINGS AND 2 GARAGE SITES

The report on this matter was considered in private by the Committee, however the officer response is not deemed confidential and suitable for publication.

Committee Clarification	Officer response
<p>The Committee requested detail on how exactly the receipts from 2 East Way and Great Bentley will be ring fenced for other Housing projects, i.e. what type of housing projects – affordable housing etc....</p>	<p>There are restriction on what the receipts obtained from the disposal of land that is held in the Housing Revenue Account can be used for.</p> <p>The receipts from the sale of the 2 East Way and Great Bentley sites will be ringfenced to the Housing Revenue Account and, as such, will be utilised in conjunction with other sources of finance to support the capital programmes involved in maintaining existing stock and the delivery of new housing units.</p>