DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9

Rep 713

SCHOOLS FORUM

5 October 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services

30 Hours of Early Education – DSG Capital Investment

1. Purpose of the Report

To update the Schools Forum on the use of the funding designated to support capital projects for the creation of places for three and four year olds to address the issues of undersupply of places in order to meet the requirement for 30 hours of nursery education.

1. Information and Analysis

At its meeting on 13 June 2016, the Schools Forum agreed that the funding remaining from the capital projects to create places for eligible two year olds - £2,563,134 - could be retained by the Early Years’ Service to support capital projects to increase the number of nursery education places to meet the requirement of up to 30 hours per week from September 2017.

On 21 June 2016, the Department for Education issued bidding guidance for the Early Years Capital Fund. The fund was relatively small (£40 million nationally). The DfE criteria for bids included that the projects must be in an area of undersupply in relation to the 30 hours’ free entitlement offer; cost less than £1 million and have a minimum 25% contribution from another source. At its meeting on 22 November 2016, Cabinet agreed that the capital projects allocation could be used to fund projects in schools. Three school projects were submitted and all received DfE approval.

The table below gives information on the three projects which will open in the Autumn term 2017

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Total Cost** | **DfE Contrib’n** | **LA Contrib’n** | **Places Created** |
| Larklands Infant & Nursery | £390,000 | £234,000 | £156,000 | 40 |
| Simmondley Primary | £380,000 | £228,000 | £152,000 | 40 |
| Belper St Johns Primary | £400,000 | £240,000 | £160,000 | 40 |
| Total | £1,170,000 | £702,000 | £468,000 | 120 |

At its meeting on 14 June 2016 Cabinet agreed to close 29 Children’s Centres and it was determined that some of the buildings proposed for closure on school sites could be used to create additional early years places. Although the Children’s Centre buildings were aimed at families with young children, most were primarily office space. The buildings therefore required minor alterations to meet Ofsted requirements. At its meeting on 22 November 2016, Cabinet approved the sum of £250,000 to support these conversions. The projects submitted and approved by the Cabinet member are given in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Total Costs** | **Places Created** |
| Arkwright Primary | £13,872 | 30 |
| Clowne Infant & Nursery | £20,180 | 40 |
| Harpur Hill Primary | £32,764 | 52 |
| Ripley Nursery | £5,420 | 10 |
| St James Primary, Glossop | £65,000 | 26 |
| Stonebroom Primary | £10,484 | 36 |
| Total | £147,720 | 194 |

There are five projects which still require Cabinet approval. These will be submitted to cabinet once the final costings are received. The five schemes are given in the table below:

|  |
| --- |
| **Project** |
| Coton in the Elms Primary |
| Killamarsh Infant & Nursery |
| New Mills Adult Ed Centre |
| Scargill Primary |
| Tupton Primary |

It is anticipated that there will be sufficient funding remaining within the £250,000 approved by Cabinet to meet the costs of these projects.

In addition to the above places, new places have been created in the Private, Voluntary and Independent sectors and in schools where there has been existing available accommodation. There remain localities where there are sufficient or surplus places and some pockets where there is still a deficit. However, to date the Authority have been unsuccessful in identifying appropriate buildings and/or land in these communities and so the remaining funding is being returned to the Schools Forum.

1. Financial Considerations

The total allocation for capital to support the creation of necessary places to meet the requirements of the 30 hours of early education is £2,563,134

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Date  Approved | Amount Approved | Balance  Remaining |
| DfE capital build | 22/11/2016 | £468,000 | £2,095,134 |
| Conversion of Children’s Centres | 22/11/2016 | £250,000 | £1,845,134 |

The above balance can now be returned to the DSG general reserve.

1. Other Considerations: In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have been considered: social value; prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, finance, human resources, legal & human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.
2. Background Papers

Cabinet Papers available in Children’s Services Department

1. Strategic Director’s Recommendation

That the Schools Forum note:

1. the expenditure incurred from the agreed allocation; and
2. that the balance of the funding will now be returned to the DSG general reserve.