

Report to Mr A Edwards, Assistant Director (Property and Assets)

June 2023

Allocation of Funding to create provision for accommodating bulge classes at Sir Robert Woodard Academy, Lancing

Report by Ms L Hunnikin, Education Capital Programme Manager

Electoral division: Sompting and North Lancing

Summary

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children who need a place.

Sir Robert Woodard Academy is an 8 form entry (8FE) 11-18 Secondary School with a 6th form. The school has grown and accommodated bulge classes in recent years to meet the demand for places which led to the requirement in 2022 for more teaching and dining space to be in place for pupils starting at the school in September 2022.

The school delivered the additional teaching accommodation and dining space as a school managed project to assist the County Council in meeting the basic need for additional pupil places required in the Shoreham area and as such it is expected that the County Council will meet the costs of the additional accommodation.

Approval is now sought for the allocation of received Section 106 monies and Basic Need funding from the Capital Programme to reimburse the Academy Trust for the costs incurred in relation to delivery of the capital works required to support the increased pupil numbers.

Recommendation

The Assistant Director (Property and Assets) is asked to approve:

- (1) The passporting of £0.657m incorporating £0.307m basic need and £0.350m of received S106 funds to Sir Robert Woodard Academy in accordance with the relevant Section 106 Agreements to fund the work outlined in section 2.2 of the report.
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Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient primary and secondary school places for all children who need a place.

- 1.2 Sir Robert Woodard Academy (SRWA) is a 8FE (240 per year) 11-18 Secondary School with a 6th form. The school has grown in recent years to meet the demand for additional pupil places which led to the requirement for more teaching and dining space.
- 1.3 To meet the need for this additional accommodation SRWA and their appointed consultants undertook a design and tendering exercise to secure a contractor to undertake the required works..
- 1.4 This school managed project has delivered 4 classrooms and infrastructure to support the increased pupil numbers for dining and break times. The County Council now need to reimburse the school for the costs associated with undertaking this project.
- 1.5 As the school is part of an Academy Trust, the proposal is to passport the funds under terms agreed within a Development and Funding Agreement to reimburse the Academy for the costs incurred.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The building project at Sir Robert Woodard Academy enabled the school to accommodate an extra 66 pupils in September 2022 and provided additional accommodation for the bulge classes already accommodated in 2019, 2020 and 2021 (the school has increased the intake by 188 pupil places since 2019).
- 2.2 Works included the provision of four additional classrooms and toilets; associated Furniture Fittings & Equipment and ICT; a canopy; outdoor seating and an external catering unit to increase dining space.
- 2.3 It is proposed to reimburse the school for the £0.657m cost of the works using £0.307m basic need funding and £0.350m received S106 monies. The project meets the requirements related to the use of these S106 monies as they must be spent on the provision of additional educational infrastructure and/or equipment at a secondary school in the Shoreham area.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 There is an option to fully fund the project from Basic Need allocations but Section 106 funds are available to support this project which meets the requirements of the relevant Section 106 Agreement.
- 3.2 There is an option not to reimburse the School/Trust for the costs incurred but the facilities were added to provide places for children in the area required by the County Council and thereby assisting the County Council in meeting the statutory duty with regard to sufficiency of places. As Basic Need and Section 106 funds are available it is appropriate that these are utilised to support the provision of additional places.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 The Capital and Assets Board (the Council's internal governance process for capital projects) has considered and supports the proposal and comments from the Board have been incorporated into the final proposal and recommendations. No material changes have been made to the proposal or the recommendations since consideration by the Board.

- 4.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills has been briefed on the proposal to passport S106 funding to the school for this project and is content for this to proceed.
- 4.3 The details of the proposal have been shared with the local Member representing the Sompting and North Lancing Division.
- 4.4 The proposal was subject to planning permission and building regulations approval and the School applied for and obtained these consents including a building regulations completion certificate for the works.

5 Finance

- 5.1 There is provision in the capital programme to progress this project. The table below shows the additional draw down into the main Capital Programme required is £0.657m to reimburse the costs incurred by the Academy Trust for the project.
- 5.2 The £0.657m being requested will be funded from Section 106 contributions received, as they must be spent on the provision of additional educational infrastructure and/or equipment at a secondary school in the Shoreham area, and basic need grant agreed but uncommitted in the approved capital programme. It is proposed that the funding is split as £0.350m Section 106 funds and £0.307m Basic Need.
- 5.3 The current unallocated Basic Need is £35.410m in the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28. The table below shows the amount of Basic Need funding after recent requests.

	Total unallocated £m
Basic Need as per Capital programme 2023/24 to 2027/28	36.647
Net Changes since Capital Programme approval including pending approvals	-1.237
Balance remaining after approval	35.410

- 5.4 The table below shows the profile of the S106 and Basic Need contributions.

Capital Programme allocation	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	Total £m
Sir Robert Woodard Academy Additional Accommodation	0	0.657	0.657

Funded from Basic Need	0	0.307	0.307
Funded from Section 106	0	0.350	0.350

6 Risk implications and mitigations

None.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 [Our Council Plan](#) sets out the corporate priorities and includes a commitment to help people and communities to fulfil their potential. This proposal provided appropriate accommodation and equipment to meet the need for places in September 2022 at Sir Robert Woodard Academy.
- 7.2 Legal Implications
- 7.2.1 Sir Robert Woodard Academy/Woodard Academies have undertaken all procurements associated with the works and have confirmed all necessary processes governing the Academy Sector were followed.
- 7.2.2 The proposal was subject to receipt of Landlord Consent from WSCC, receipt of Planning Permission and Building Regulations Approval all of which have been granted by the appropriate authorities. The School have obtained a Building Regulations Completion Certificate for the works..
- 7.2.3 Both parties have entered into a Development and Funding Agreement which sets the terms of project delivery.
- 7.3 Equality Duty and Human Rights Assessment
- Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. This proposal will ensure suitable school places for those of secondary age requiring a school place and will be fully accessible to those with protected characteristics.
- 7.4 Climate Change
- The County Council's [Climate Change Strategy](#) did not apply to this proposal as this does not apply to Academies.
- 7.5 Crime and Disorder - None
- 7.6 Public Health – None
- 7.7 Social Value - Not applicable for this specific proposal.

Leigh Hunnikin

Education Capital Programme Manager

Contact Officer: Leigh Hunnikin, Education Capital Programme Manager, 0330 2223051

Background papers

None