

## **Kingston upon Hull SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy 2023 - 2028**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Council as an education authority has a duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. It also has a general duty to secure sufficient schools and school places in the area, as well as secure provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND). These are referred to as the school place planning duties.

The Department for Education (DfE) provides each local authority with high needs capital funding to support the development of new provisions and school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Hull City Council's allocation of high need capital funding for the financial years 2022-24 is just over £8m. It is not yet understood what future high needs capital funding may be allocated after 2024.

Local authority capital funding should be used to support the development of new places but may also be used to improve existing provision for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities or requiring alternative provision.

The SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy has been informed by the refreshed SEND Sufficiency Needs Assessment 2023 - 2028 and aligns with Hull City Council's current SEND Strategy 2020 - 2025

#### **1.1. Purpose of document the SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy and SEND Sufficiency Assessment:**

- To outline and provide a more in-depth understanding of the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) context in the city.
- To set out clearly the City's existing SEND provision and capacity.
- To provide data and evidence to inform and support the council's decisions on how the city's High Needs Capital funding should be used as the council seeks to fulfil its sufficiency duty and deliver high quality inclusive provision.
- To set out the guiding principles for implementing the SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy.

### **2. Context (please refer to the SEND Sufficiency Assessment 2023 – 2028 for full data analytics)**

- 2.1 In Hull children with additional needs mainly benefit from good and outstanding mainstream and special school provision. However, as is the case nationally, the city is experiencing considerable growth in the numbers of children and young people being identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities. Currently there is insufficient capacity to meet this growing need in both the primary and

secondary settings now or in future years should the current year on year growth continue. Currently virtually all places in special schools and Resourced Based Provisions (RBPs) within mainstream school are full.

- 2.2 Whilst ongoing growth in the city's SEND cohort places pressure on the city's SEND Sufficiency capacity, it also brings increased financial pressure to the council's revenue budget. There is therefore a need for the council to consider, investigate and develop long term plans to mitigate risks to their high needs block spend and reduce budget deficits. We (Hull City Council) are looking to invest in several SEND capital schemes to create increased capacity within the city's school estate enabling schools to continue to meet children and young people's needs effectively and as locally as possible.
- 2.3 Developing further SEND provision through HN capital projects will have implications on the HN block revenue budget. It is therefore important that the council forward plan and understands the HN revenue costs associated with the proposed capital schemes proposed and outlined in this strategy.
- 2.4 The SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy will focus on expanding provision at the city's special schools, where capacity assessments have confirmed that this is possible, as well as building on and developing additional Resourced Based Provisions (RBPs) within the mainstream estate, which have previously been delivered. Additionally, the local authority is looking to develop several Enhanced Mainstream Provisions (EMP's). It is anticipated that the earliest any new provision will be agreed, developed and ready to be open will be the autumn 2023 school term.
- 2.5 Further increases in both the special school estate, RBP's and EMP's is required to meet the growing SEND demand as well as enabling the city to meet needs locally, thereby limiting the number of out of city placements and high cost EOTAS (Education Other than At School) packages being commissioned.
- 2.6 It is important that there is a strategic approach to developing new provisions to ensure the following:
  1. Provisions are developed to meet the needs of children with SEND at each key stage (EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3)
  2. Provisions are developed equally across the city (East, West, North), enabling children and young people to be properly supported within their local community and avoid the need to be transported across the city.
  3. Develop provisions that deliver a curriculum that is targeted to support children and young people with a specific primary SEN e.g., Communication and Interaction; Cognition and Learning; SEMH.
  4. When developing provisions to consider the child's future educational journey and whether provisions are available for them to transition onto (if needed)
- 2.7 The aim is to ensure a continuum of good and outstanding provision for children and young people with SEND, that offers choice and progression as well as reflecting and being able to meet changing demand. The proposed schemes in the capital plan will be reviewed further in the context of data and affordability.
- 2.6 This SEND Sufficiency High Needs Capital Strategy will be an evolving and dynamic document that will be reviewed regularly and in line with any new SEND developments

from central government, ensuring that new provisions reflect the changing local and national context and demands.

- 2.7 The council will work with schools, partners, families, children and young people and other stakeholders to develop and deliver good quality inclusive provision, to ensure individual needs are being met and to ensure the best possible experience and outcomes for all children and young people.

### 3. Guiding Principles

- For children and young people to be supported (wherever possible) to access good quality education locally, which is close to their home and community.
- That provisions offer best value for any capital and HN revenue investment.
- That proposed capital schemes are developed in partnership and consultation with schools, academies, parents, and young people.
- That parents and young people are meaningfully engaged and that their voices and views are used to help shape new provisions.
- To use data analytics to develop provisions that will target key areas where pressure exists.
- To work closely with schools, early and post 16 providers to ensure that wherever possible children and young people can have their needs met in their local inclusive mainstream school.
- For children with the most complex needs the LA will look to develop a range of Enhanced Mainstream and Resourced Based provisions in both the primary and secondary mainstream school estate. Additionally, to develop additional special school capacity within its local area within the financial resources available.

**(Resource Based Provisions** = a small unit within a mainstream school setting offering a differentiated and blended curriculum offer for children and young people with SEND. This accessing a RBP will access learning both in the base as well as with their peers in the mains school. Time spent in each will be bespoke to each pupil)

**(Enhanced Mainstream Provision** = a small unit within a mainstream school where pupils needs are highly complex. Pupils will require a highly differentiated curriculum offer. EMP's will provide a provision more aligned to that ordinarily offered in a special school)

- For the local "inclusion plan" to be reviewed annually and to clearly communicate the key priorities to ensure improved inclusive practice and how this will be achieved.
- For information on developed provisions to be updated regularly and communicated via the local offer to parents, young people, and providers,

**4. SEND capital proposed schemes for consultation (attached document)**

- 4.1 We have identified several possible schemes for how we may invest our HN capital funding. The proposed schemes will create additional special school provision as well as Resourced Base and Enhanced Mainstream Provisions.
- 4.2 Individual proposed schemes will vary depending on size, site, and scheme. To determine which schemes to take forward costed feasibility reports will be commissioned to determine (a) value for money (b) impact on SEND sufficiency pressures (c) feasibility and viability (d) affordability within the current £8million available.
- 4.3 The most cost-effective schemes will be taken forward. All stakeholders will be engaged in consultation to help shape proposals and provisions.

**5. Future Investment**

Future High Needs Capital funding beyond 2024 cannot be guaranteed and therefore prudent decisions on how to effectively spend the current HN capital allocation is necessary to ensure longer term sustainability of the SEND system. Once any future capital allocation is announced the council can look to progress any outstanding proposed schemes, alongside any new.