

**STOCKPORT COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CABINET– SUMMARY SHEET**

**Subject:** School Investment Plan

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**Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 12 March 2024**

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**Report of: (a)** Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

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**Key Decision: (b)** Y

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Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency  (Mark with a Y if applicable)

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**Summary:**

The Council has an enduring statutory responsibility to commission sufficient high quality school places. This document is the third annual revision of our plan and sets out how we will carry out our responsibility, in line with the commitments made in the Borough Plan and School Strategy to ensure there are sufficient places in good and improving local inclusive schools at the heart of the community that children and families want to go to. This means having the right number and type of school places, in the right place, at the right time to meet demand.

The Council aspires to secure an education and skills system that provides a safe, accessible, secure and stimulating learning environment, which is sustainable and provides value for money, is fit for current and future needs, reduces environmental impact, and supports Stockport children and young people from 2 years to 25 years to achieve their true potential.

The stark reality however is that there continues to be a significant shortfall in government funding, limiting our ability to address challenges and realise the ambitions we have for our school estate. There exists a constant tension throughout this report between what we should do and what we are able to do within the layered and constrained environment we find ourselves in. This tension places significant pressure on our ageing school estate, our school partners, and the Council's cash limit and Dedicated School's Grant budget.

This document, alongside the Borough Plan, the Schools Strategy, the Children and Young People's Strategy, and other associated strategic documents provides a framework on which a school place plan can be devised for short, medium, and longer-term sufficiency.

Over the next twelve months continued work towards the Council's strategic growth priorities in areas such social infrastructure in the town centre and the Council's Work and Skills plan will be reflected in this plan forming a 0-25 years education and training provision investment plan which also benefits occupational entry into the skills system for residents up to 64 years.

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**Comments/Views of the Cabinet Member: (c)**

I endorse the Schools Investment Plan and the five recommendations listed below.

**Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Member: (d)**

Agree the terms outlined in the strategy and the associated investment detailed in the Education Asset Management Plan (Appendix 2).

Cabinet to delegate authority to the Director for Development and Regeneration to procure the works and services, and subsequently determine the outcome of any contract award process for any project specified in the asset management plan.

Cabinet to delegate authority to the Director for Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to enter into funding agreements with schools and to release basic need funding to schools who are working with the LA to create additional mainstream or resource base places as specified in the 2023/24 asset management plan approved by Cabinet in January 2023 and the 2024/25 asset management plan in Appendix 2 of this report.

Cabinet to delegate authority to the Director of Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to determine the allocation of up to £2m of basic need funds to schools who work with the LA to create additional mainstream or resource base places in the secondary phase.

Further to the above, Cabinet delegate authority to the Director for Education, Work, and Skills and Deputy Chief Executive to enter into funding agreements with schools determined in the above and to release basic need funding to those schools.

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**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): **(e)**

Children & Families Scrutiny Committee

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**Background Papers** (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing background papers and discussing the report

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**'Urgent Business': (g)**

~~Yes~~ **No (Please circle)**

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/ Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

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