

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 29 January 2024
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Children's Services

Report Title

Education and Early Years Basic Need and High Needs Capital Report

Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient places in schools and early years settings.

To support the achievement of this duty, and to meet any risks in relation to school conditions and access, the Council has received Basic Need capital funding (for expansion of pupil places) of nil for 2024/25 and £19.177m for 2025/26. This report further details and updates on the progress that has been made on existing projects to meet demand for places as projected in December 2022.

Section 6 sets out the Council's proposals to address the shortfall of places. All proposals are at the budget estimate stage and will be met from within the grant allocation available.

There is continued engagement with the Department for Education to monitor sufficiency and consider additional solutions to increase capacity.

The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places that meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). To support the achievement of this duty the Council received an allocation of £4.729m High Needs Capital Provision for 2022/23 and £3.680m for 2023/24, as was detailed in the December 2022 report. This report updates and re-aligns these budgets to support the continuing need. The Council awaits a further DfE announcement in Spring 2024 in relation to funding allocation for 2024/25.

This report provides an update on the progress of existing projects to meet demand for SEND places as well as setting out the Council's approach to consultation and the proposals for the High Needs Capital Provision Grant. All proposals are at the budget estimate stage and will be met from within the grant allocation available.

Recommendation

That the Executive agrees the proposals contained within this report as the detailed capital programme for 2024/25, specifically:

- Note the demand for primary and secondary school places as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report.
- Note the demand for free early years provision as set out in section 4 of the report.
- Note the demand for SEND school places as set out in section 5 of the report.
- Approve the proposals detailed in sections 6.2 and 6.4 of the report to create the following additional school places:
 - Stretford High School – increase the Published Admission Number (PAN, the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group) by 10 places from September 2023.
 - Sale High School – bulge class of 30 places for September 2023 (funded from existing budgets).
 - Park Road Primary, Sale – accessibility works for a pupil placed at school via the Fair Access Protocol.
 - The Orchards – increase of 10 places through creation of a Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) suite.
- Approve the Secondary School expansion proposals detailed in section 6.3 of the report:
 - Altrincham College (6FE to 8FE) 60 places – additional funding.
 - Broadoak School (4FE to 6FE) 60 places
- Approve the High Needs (SEND) capital proposal detailed in section 6.5 of this report:
 - Brentwood School (increase from 45 places to 80 places including individual learning spaces) – additional funding.
- Approve the allocation of Basic Need capital funding and High Needs Capital Provision to carry out work to improve the facilities and expand provision for pupils detailed in Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Basic Need Capital Programme, Table 1 and High Needs (SEND) Capital Provision Programme, Table 2.
- Note the completion of previous SEND / High Needs Capital schemes in Appendix B.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Extension: 912 3233 / 912 5100

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Corporate Plan Outcome: All our residents will have access to quality learning, training and jobs.
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Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Not Applicable.
Financial	The estimated capital cost of the schemes, now recommended for approval in Appendix A, is £14.766m which can be financed by capital grant from the DfE.
Legal Implications:	All changes to schools' status, closure, expansion and amalgamation, and new schools, are subject to statutory processes, which will need to be adhered to as appropriate for each scheme. In addition, the Council has statutory duties in relation to the provision of school and early education places, including using its planning powers to secure provision. The Education Act 1996 sets out the statutory duty on local authorities to secure sufficient school places, which they must do with regard to securing special educational provision for pupils with SEND. The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to support children and young people with SEND, including keeping the sufficiency of educational provision under review.
Equality/Diversity Implications	Schools are subject to current legislation regarding Equality and Diversity.
Sustainability Implications	School buildings are procured requiring successful contractors to meet required sustainability criteria.
Carbon Reduction	Improving the quality of our School buildings helps to reduce energy and carbon consumption.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	School buildings are assets that need to be maintained.
Risk Management Implications	Operational risk of buildings closing if capital maintenance works not undertaken and insufficient school places and insufficient SEN school places.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The condition of School buildings affects the Health and Wellbeing of all staff and pupils.
Health and Safety Implications	All building work is subject to appropriate current Health and Safety/CDM regulations. Failure to respond to condition issues, which have health and safety implications, will find the Council in breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

1. Background

- 1.1 There has been a rolling programme of capital expansion across Trafford Schools to ensure the local authority is able to meet its statutory duty in relation to the provision of school and early years places.
- 1.2 The local authority sets its priorities for the allocation of capital resources using these key principles:

- Ensuring there is an appropriate level of school places, so every child has a school place and parental choice is maximised.
- Expanding existing schools to protect financial viability, noting the Department for Education (DfE) no longer supports the creation of single form entry (FE) schools (schools with only one form per year group).
- Taking account of emerging and changing demographics, including inward migration, and housing developments.
- Using the learning environment efficiently to enhance the provision for vulnerable pupils.
- Ensuring health and safety issues are identified, prioritised and addressed.
- Supporting growth and economic investment.
- Making judicious use of public resources including supporting infant and junior school amalgamations and promoting full forms of entry into infant, junior and primary schools.
- Supporting Good and Outstanding schools.

This maximises the impact of basic need funding, whilst providing opportunities to improve the suitability and condition of the existing stock.

- 1.3** Between 2010 and 2026, Trafford has been allocated £105.6m of basic need funding which has been used to commission the expansion of 38 schools and provide an additional 4,646 places. Trafford has been identified by the DfE as an exemplar local authority with regards to its effective and efficient use of basic need funding.
- 1.4** The DfE utilise data provided in the annual School Capacity (SCAP) Survey to estimate the number of additional places needed in Trafford, based on the DfE's school capacity assessment. An important point to note is that the DfE calculation deploys a methodology which assumes that local authorities will provide places for all pupils who wish to access a school in their area. This differs from the local sufficiency assessment methodology, which is to ensure that the local authority meets its duty to ensure sufficient places for all pupils resident in our area.
- 1.5** Trafford has good transport links and high performing, popular schools, many of which are oversubscribed, making it an attractive option for pupils from outside of our area. The 3-year average indicates that 5% of primary pupils in reception year are not resident in Trafford. For secondary pupils in Year 7, the 3-year average is much higher with 16% of pupils not resident in Trafford, with selective schools contributing significantly to this.
- 1.6** Trafford being a net importer of school places creates a significant difference between the DfE estimation of additional places needed and the number of places indicated in our local sufficiency assessment.
- 1.7** Demand for school places is influenced by a broad range of social, economic and demographic factors, reflecting wider trends within community and society at a given point in time. In 2021/22, Trafford experienced an unprecedented increase in demand from pupils moving into our area mid-way through their education and this trend continued into 2022/23, which created significant pressures.
- 1.8** The selective education system in Trafford creates additional complexities, with a unique pattern of pupils in upper year groups in the primary phase moving into the area in preparation for applying for our grammar schools. Additionally, Trafford is not the Admission Authority for 18 of our 19 secondary schools where this responsibility lies with the school's governing body because they are an academy or faith school.

1.9 Due to this complexity, providing a place for every Trafford resident child has not been easy to achieve but Trafford continues to meet the statutory duty despite the challenges.

1.10 Achieving the right balance between sufficient places and overprovision is critical to maintain stability within the existing school system and to avoid compounding financial challenges for schools.

Local Authority Funded Projects

1.11 The Executive have previously approved the following schemes to increase capacity and the table below shows progress to date.

CAPITAL PROJECTS – PREVIOUSLY APPROVED EXPANSION SCHEMES			
School	Description	Progress	Additional Places
2 Schools		Completed Sept 2010	140
3 Schools		Completed Sept 2011	420
3 Schools		Completed Sept 2012	203
2 Schools		Completed Sept 2013	210
4 Schools		Completed Sept 2014	770
5 Schools		Completed Sept 2015	553
3 Schools		Completed Sept 2016	295
Park Road Primary, Sale	Expand from 45 to 2FE	Completed Sept 2017	105
Broadheath Primary	Expand from 2FE to 3FE	Completed April 2018	210
Brooklands Primary	Expand from 70 to 3FE	Completed Sept 2018	140
Gorse Hill Primary	Expand from 50 to 2FE	Completed June 2019	70
Worthington Primary	Expand from 45 to 2FE	Completed Nov 2020	105
Blessed Thomas Holford	Expand to PAN 290	Completed Nov 2021	400
Sale High	Expand from 198 to 210	Ongoing	60
Firs Primary	Expand from 2FE to 3FE	Completed Sept 2023	210
Willows Primary	Expand from 45 to 2FE	Completed Sept 2023	105
Templemoor Infant	Expand from 2FE to 3FE	Completed Sept 2023	90
Moorlands Junior	Expand from 2FE to 3FE	Completed Sept 2023	120
Woodheys Primary	30 places in KS2 (temporary)	Complete Feb 2022	30
Broomwood Primary	30 places in KS2 (temporary)	Completed May 2023	30
Altrincham College	Expand from 6FE to 8FE	Ongoing	300
Sale High	30 places in Year 7 in Sept 2023 (temporary bulge, a bulge class being a one-off class for one year only)	Completed Sept 2023	30

Stretford High	10 places per year group from Sept 2023	Completed Sept 2023	50
Total:			4,646
CONDITION / SUITABILITY ISSUES			
St Vincent's	Two additional classrooms to replace 2 very small first floor classrooms.	Complete Dec 2017	-

1.12 Almost all schemes detailed have been completed to target date and on budget.

DfE Funded Projects

1.13 In 2018 and 2019, grammar schools were able to submit bids to the DfE's Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) which supported grammar schools to expand to address a need for additional places in their area. There were conditions requiring applicants to set out plans to increase applications from children eligible for the pupil premium and to help raise standards more widely. The following Trafford schools were successful:

- Altrincham Grammar School for Boys – increased published admission number (PAN) to 202 from September 2020, creating 30 places per year group, 150 additional places in total.
- Altrincham Grammar School for Girls – increased PAN to 204 from September 2021, creating 30 places per year group, 150 additional places in total.
- Stretford Grammar School – increased PAN to 160 from September 2020, creating 32 places per year group, 160 additional places in total.

1.14 The DfE's School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition. Responsible bodies could nominate schools for consideration subject to strict criteria and successful schools were announced in 2021 and 2022. These projects replace existing provision rather than creating additional places. The following Trafford schools were successful, noting the two projects nominated by Trafford local authority have been allocated to the second phase of the programme which is provisionally expected to enter delivery from April 2025 with an expected three-year project timeline:

- St John Vianney School – non-maintained special school in Stretford nominated by the school.
- St Ann's RC Primary School – mainstream school in Stretford nominated by the Diocese of Salford.
- Barton Clough Primary School – mainstream academy in Stretford nominated by Bright Futures Educational Trust.
- Sale High School – non-selective foundation school in Sale nominated by Trafford local authority.
- Stretford Grammar School – selective foundation school in Stretford nominated by Trafford local authority.

2. School Place Demand – Basic Need – Primary

Forecast Methodology

2.1 In building projections for future demand for school places, information from a number of sources is collated and analysed including GP registrations, pupils on roll on the termly school census, Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG), Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and coordinated admissions data to forecast migration. Forecast pupil numbers are submitted to the DfE as part of the annual School Capacity (SCAP) survey which generates a Basic Need funding allocation.

Primary Overview

2.2 In the 2023 admission round there were sufficient reception places in all areas. On national offer day (17 April 2023) every applicant was offered a place, with 94% of Trafford resident on-time applicants allocated their first preference school and 99% allocated one of their top three preferences. There were reception vacancies in areas usually oversubscribed including Sale East, Sale West and Altrincham.

2.3 Trafford has always experienced a unique pattern of inbound migration into upper year groups in primary schools as pupils get ready to access the selective education system.

2.4 In 2021/22 and 2022/23, Trafford experienced an unprecedented increase in demand from pupils moving into our area mid-way through their phase of education – both primary and secondary – which created significant pressures.

2.5 Before the pandemic, the average number of primary in-year applications received across the school year was 909. In school year 2021/22 a total of 1,414 applications were received, an increase of 56%. This reduced to 1,244 in school year 2022/23, a reduction of 16% on 2021/22, but still 37% higher than the pre-pandemic average.

2.6 The table below shows the assessed position for each of the primary planning areas for school year 2023/24 as at the end of the autumn term in December 2023.

Red = Below 3% vacancy rate

Amber = 3 to 6% vacancy rate

Green = More than 6% vacancy rate

Planning Area	Lower Year Groups	Upper Year Groups
Altrincham	Green	Red
Sale East	Amber	Amber
Sale West	Amber	Red
Stretford	Green	Green
Urmston	Amber	Amber
Partington	Green	Green

2.7 All primary in-year applications received in the 2023 autumn term, where residency has been confirmed, have been allocated a school place. This means the local authority continues to meet its statutory duty with regards to offering a place although it is noted that parental preference is less likely to be accommodated and in-year applicants may have to travel further to access a place.

- 2.8** This has been achieved through allocating through the normal admissions process and through utilisation of the Fair Access Protocol (FAP). The FAP is designed to ensure that unplaced and vulnerable children, and those who are having difficulty in securing a school place in-year, are allocated a place as quickly as possible.
- 2.9** In-year applications, the impact of inbound migration and school vacancy rates (including where the local authority is not the admission authority) are monitored regularly by Place Shaping Board and the School Places and Capital Board. Intelligence is shared amongst neighbouring authorities via the GM Pupil Place Planning Group and the regional Educational Building and Development Officers Group (EBDOG). The local authority is working closely with the DfE Pupil Place Planning Team to monitor the sufficiency position and identify potential solutions.
- 2.10** As well as the permanent expansions projects listed in paragraph 1.11, the following short-term temporary measures have been implemented:

Altrincham Planning Area

- Broomwood Primary School – 30 places in Y6 bulge class for school years 2022/23 and 2023/24 achieved through conversion of intervention space into classroom.

Sale West Planning Area

- Woodheys Primary School – 30 places in Y5 bulge class for 2021/22, moving to Y6 in 2022/23, achieved through conversion of ICT suite into classroom. Further two-year agreement in place for 30 places in Y5 bulge class for 2023/24 moving to Y6 in 2024/25.

- 2.11** Catchment areas identify priority areas for admission to community schools, voluntary controlled schools, and to some academies. These areas are reviewed annually to ensure that sufficient places exist in each area, or neighbouring area, to accommodate all the children resident in that area. It is accepted that in some years, a very few schools may not be able to allocate places to all the residents in their area, however, when this occurrence becomes routine, or where there is no suitable alternative provision elsewhere, the provision of additional places or amendments to the relevant catchment areas will be considered.
- 2.12** The birth rate in Trafford is decreasing, following the national trend. In 2022 there were 2,170 live births in Trafford, representing a 13% decrease over the last 3 years, and the lowest number in a decade. The pupil place planning formula is complex and there are factors that will offset some of this decrease, including in-bound migration into our area in the years between birth and starting school; in-year applicants requiring a school place midway through their education; and new housing developments which will yield additional pupils. However, these factors will not fully offset the birth rate decrease and it does mean that in some areas, less primary school places will be needed in the future.

3. School Place Demand – Basic Need – Secondary

- 3.1** The unprecedented surge in demand for primary school places as described in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 above went on to have a significant impact on admissions into secondary school.

- 3.2** The local authority coordinates the normal round of admission into year 7. On national offer day in 2023, there was just enough capacity to offer a place to everyone who applied. However, 92 Trafford children resident in Altrincham and Sale could not be allocated places at any of their preferred schools and were allocated places at the nearest school with a vacancy. At the end of the allocation process, every secondary school in Trafford was full and some schools allocated places above their published capacity.
- 3.3** The local authority is the admission authority for only 1 of the borough's 19 secondary schools and it does not coordinate in-year admissions. Due to recent increasing pressure on places and implementation of an improved application system, all secondary in-year applications are now channelled through the local authority so there is increased oversight of the position.
- 3.4** The school census data indicates significantly increased levels of demand from in-year applicants moving into Trafford and requiring a secondary school place. Before the pandemic, the average number of new starters in secondary school across the school year was 239. In the school year 2021/22 there were a total of 336 new starters from outside Trafford, an increase of 41% and this elevated level remains in 2022/23.
- 3.5** The table below shows the assessed position for each of the secondary planning areas for the school year 2023/24 as at the end of the autumn term in December 2023.

Red = Below 3% vacancy rate
 Amber = 3 to 6% vacancy rate
 Green = More than 6% vacancy rate

Planning Area	Lower Year Groups	Upper Year Groups
Altrincham	Red	Red
Sale	Red	Red
Stretford	Green	Green
Urmston	Amber	Amber
Partington	Amber	Green

- 3.6** Representations were made to the DfE about the sufficiency challenges and regular meetings were held with DfE to review the local sufficiency position and consider potential solutions. This included fully exploring the potential to establish a new secondary school. There are two routes to establishing a new school:

Central mainstream free schools programme

For this route, DfE invites applications from groups to establish high quality new schools. DfE can provide the capital for land and construction for these free schools. To secure best value for money, where possible DfE look to supplement this funding with other contributions such as provision of a site from LA or contributions from developers. In the latest wave in 2022, government plan to open a total of 15 new mainstream schools in education investment areas which is those with the lowest education standards so Trafford was not eligible.

Presumption free schools

Where a local authority identifies the need for a new school they must seek proposals to establish free school through this process. The local authority is responsible for providing the site and meeting associated capital build costs which are estimated to be upwards of £25m and this would have to be funded using DfE Basic Need funding and/or contributions from developers. The minimum sized secondary school is usually 6 forms of entry (180 PAN) or in exceptional circumstances 5 forms of entry can be considered (150 PAN). Trafford do not have this level of shortfall of places and so this was not a feasible option as the evidenced shortfall in demand falls significantly short of the required minimum numbers for a new school.

3.7 The local authority considered expansion of all non-selective secondary schools in Sale and Altrincham prior to commencing the expansion project currently underway at Altrincham College, noting there are no easy expansion options due over-developed sites, limitations of space and communal facilities within existing sites.

3.8 A Priority School Rebuild bid to rebuild two blocks at Sale High School was submitted to the DfE and was successful. The project has been allocated to the second phase of the programme which is provisionally expected to enter delivery from April 2025 with an expected three-year project timeline. The DfE strongly advised against creation of any permanent or temporary additional accommodation on this site ahead of the rebuild project. It may be possible to combine a local authority funded expansion alongside the rebuild project, but this would not create any additional places until 2028 at the very earliest, depending on the DfE programme and so would not help resolve the current pressure.

3.9 Other options to create additional capacity have been considered:

- Schools have been asked to take additional pupils over their published admission numbers. A significant number of additional places across all secondary year groups has already been achieved in this way.
- Explored neighbouring local authority vacancies, primarily along our border areas with Cheshire East and Manchester, but there are limited vacancies. This option is linked to parental preference and whilst some applicants each year have successfully achieved places in other areas, this is in line with the oversubscription criteria for each school, places cannot be guaranteed and availability fluctuates.
- Creation of temporary bulge classes in existing schools through addition of temporary accommodation/mobile classrooms. This presents significant operational challenges in the secondary sector due to curriculum planning for teaching time and use of specialist spaces.
- Existing school expansion onto satellite site if non-education accommodation can be identified. Examples of this being done from unused office space in another local authority area but discounted due to the significant operational and curriculum challenges reported by authorities who have done this.

4. Free Early Education Places

4.1 Currently the Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016 to secure free early years provision for eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children in their area. This entitlement is a part time place of 15 hours per week for the 40% most disadvantaged 2-year-old children and all 3- and 4-year-old children. In addition, working families of 3- and 4-year-old children who meet the criteria can access an additional 15 hours, so they can receive up to 30 hours per week in total.

4.2 A range of ambitious early years and childcare reforms are to be introduced April 2024 over a phased approach, which will see the extension of early education to a wider age group along with a focus on wraparound childcare for working parents. The reforms are as follows:

- From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.
- From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.
- From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

4.3 The early education sector is facing significant recruitment and retention challenges, both nationally and locally. To date, the Council is meeting its statutory sufficiency duty for early education and childcare places however this may become more challenging with the upcoming reforms.

4.4 Trafford has been allocated a Childcare Expansion Capital Grant of £561,468 for the provision of new places to support the expansion of:

- 30-hours entitlement places for children aged 9-months to 3-year-olds
- wraparound provision for primary school aged children

4.5 Trafford has also been allocated a Wraparound Childcare Programme Grant of £685,372 over a 3-year period 2023/24 to 2025/26. The purpose of the grant is to support local authorities to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand. It should be noted that this is not about delivering free wraparound support, it is about expanding provision to ensure working parents can access a place should they wish to pay for this service.

4.6 The take up of early education places remains high with Trafford ranking 2nd nationally for take up of the early education offer for disadvantaged 2 year olds (2023). The take up of the universal early education offer for 3 and 4 year olds is high at 97.9% (2023).

4.7 A detailed sufficiency exercise is underway to assess Trafford's readiness to deliver on both programmes and a further report will be provided in summer term.

5. School Places Demand – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

5.1 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNCPA) is funding to support the provision of new places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those requiring alternative provision. Trafford's funding allocation was £4.73m for 2022/23 and £3.68m for 2023/24. Trafford awaits the 2024/25 funding allocation announcement and further consultation will then take place.

5.2 In Trafford, children with additional needs benefit from excellent mainstream and specialist school provision. However, there is very limited capacity to meet increasing demand for places in both primary and secondary settings in the future.

5.3 Our strategic priorities are to increase capacity within local specialist provision, including small specialist classes and resourced provision within mainstream schools,

to meet the increasing demands for places. We are committed to supporting our schools and settings within the borough to meet this increasing demand as we believe that local provision offers the best outcomes for the children and young people of Trafford. This fits with our commitment to the Trafford Inclusion Charter and the aims of the national SEND reforms which are currently being tested through the SEND Change Programme Partnerships.

- 5.4** Small specialist classes (SSC) have been developed to make sure most pupils with complex special educational needs can have their additional needs met within a mainstream school. These classes are usually for around 10 pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Staff are experienced and trained in the specialism of each class as well as general special and additional needs. Pupils from the SSC often spend time in the bigger classes in the school when they show themselves able to cope with the social and educational demands of the mainstream class in particular areas of the curriculum, and they are fully integrated into general school life.
- 5.5** All SSCs at mainstream primary schools are currently full, which resulted in the local authority identifying requirements for additional SSCs for which expressions of interest were invited from schools:

Area	Need	Key Stage
South / Central Trafford (WA14, WA15, M33)	Social communication/ Autism spectrum / complex needs	KS1 and KS2
North / West Trafford (M16, M32, M31, M41)	Social communication/ Autism spectrum / complex needs	KS1 and KS2

- 5.6** Following the expressions of interest, discussions are taking place with a primary school in the north neighbourhood to deliver a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SSC on their site.
- 5.7** The primary school in the south/central locality was unable to move forward with the proposal, so the School Places and Capital Board agreed that further expressions of interest will be sought from schools in these neighbourhoods in the spring term 2024.
- 5.8** The local authority has previously identified a number of proposed schemes linked to our priorities, some at specific schools and some inviting expressions of interest from Trafford schools:

Type	School	Scheme
Additional classes	Brentwood School (secondary)	Expansion for increasing cohort size. Additional capacity for 45 places to meet needs of secondary age children.
6 th form	Egerton School (secondary)	Creation of new 6 th form facility.
Additional classes	Longford Park School (primary SEMH special school)	Further 2 classrooms to create additional capacity for 16 places to meet needs of primary age children who present with SEMH/ASC/social communication needs and behaviour that may be challenging.

Type	School	Scheme
Additional small specialist class	Primary School in North	Additional small specialist class required for 20 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs.
Additional small specialist class	Primary School in Central	Additional small specialist class required for 20 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs.

- 5.9** A public consultation was announced on 30 September 2022 inviting comments on these proposals and any additional ideas for how we should spend the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) funding allocation for 2022-24. The consultation period ran from 30 September until 14 October 2022. Trafford awaits the 2024/25 DfE funding allocation announcement and further consultation will then take place around any new proposals.
- 5.10** The scope of the Brentwood expansion has been increased to allow for 10 additional pupils in each year group (an increase of 80 places rather than 45 places) to ensure the accommodation requirements meet the needs of the school as the cohorts move through all year groups. Individual learning spaces have also been designed to cater for more individual pupil needs. The increase in scope requires additional capital funding to deliver the project. The school continues to be supportive and has adapted spaces within the school to allow pupil places to be available ahead of the project completion.
- 5.11** The creation of the new 6th form provision for Egerton School has been achieved through internal adaptations at a satellite site, co-located with Trafford Alternative Education Provision, rather than a new building on the Egerton School site. The scheme provides Egerton 6th form with a separate entrance along with office and teaching spaces. It is proposed that the remaining funding is reallocated to fund other High Needs priorities.
- 5.12** In the December 2022 report, funding was allocated for the creation of two Primary School Small Specialist Classes (SSCs), one in the North and the other in Central. As the proposed scheme in the North has developed, it has become evident that locating the KS1 and KS2 SSCs within their peer groups will require some refurbishment works to existing spaces, along with a small extension. It is proposed that the current budget allocations for the North SSC and Central SSC are swapped to ensure that the North SSC can be delivered.
- 5.13** Appendix B 'Update on Previous High Needs (SEND) capital projects' details all previous SEND / High Needs capital schemes.

6. Proposals

- 6.1** The Council has expanded a number of primary schools and created 4,646 new places during the last 13 years, including new accommodation set to open in September 2025.

Basic Need

- 6.2** Since the last report to the Executive dated 16 December 2022, there have been two minor basic need schemes:
- Stretford High School – increase the Published Admission Number (PAN, the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group) by 10 places from September 2023.
 - Sale High School – bulge class of 30 places for September 2023 (funded from existing budgets).
- 6.3** Following a thorough analysis of the options and review by School Places and Capital Board it is recommended to proceed with the following proposals:

Altrincham Area

Altrincham College (6FE to 8FE)

- There is identified additional demand for secondary school places in the Altrincham/Sale areas following a number of primary school expansion schemes and the recent unprecedented surge of primary in-year applications.
- Inbound migration trend in primary upper year groups as families move into the area to access the selective education system has led to enlarged Y5/Y6 cohorts coming through into the secondary sector.
- An additional 93 secondary pupils in total is expected from new housing developments within the next 5 years including Timperley Wedge. Developer contributions secured via Section 106 contributions will be used to contribute to this project.
- In the last report dated 16 December 2022, the Executive approved a proposal to expand Altrincham College from 6FE to 8FE from September 2024, which also allowed for the legacy shortfall of accommodation to be resolved along with the adjacencies of subject areas.
- There has been a delay with this scheme due to the complexities of the school site, green belt consideration and Sport England objection at pre-planning stage. Further capital funding to support the delivery of the 300 places is needed and there will be a delayed programme of delivery with places now expected no earlier than September 2025.

North Cestrian School

- The feasibility study originally carried out in 2022 for North Cestrian School was to consider options for expansion from 5FE to 6FE within the existing site. Options allowed for the correct number of teaching spaces, but did not resolve the larger space issues such as dining and sports facilities and further investment in future years would have been required as the expanded cohort worked through the school, meaning it was not the preferred option. There is now a second feasibility study underway to review an expansion from 5FE to 7FE and to understand what opportunities may be presented given that the adjacent site formerly occupied by Loreto Preparatory School is now for sale. Expansion of this school from 5FE to 7FE would only be possible if the additional site could be acquired and exploration of this is ongoing.

Partington Area – Expand Broadoak School (4FE to 6FE)

- The medium to long term strategy to meet the additional demand for secondary school places expected from new housing developments in the Partington and Carrington area is to expand Broadoak School in Partington.
- An additional 289 secondary pupils in total are expected from new housing developments within the next 5 years, with additional further demand beyond this. Developer contributions, when secured via Section 106 agreements, will be used to contribute to this project.
- S106 developer contributions have been requested for the Partington and Carrington areas, totalling, £1,925,373, for secondary school places (as per November 2023 S106 contributions summary). However, it is worth noting that these are yet to be secured and received and so the proposal is to be forward funded by Basic Need grant.
- A feasibility study is underway to understand the requirements for the 2FE expansion which will create an additional 300 places in total, to be available from September 2026 with a phased approach to opening them aligned to housing development completion.
- An additional 30 places for Year 7 pupils in September 2024 could be provided ahead of the permanent expansion if this is needed to meet the level of demand. The school requirements to be able to support this early provision of places are being identified as part of the feasibility study.
- In the last two years, due to the pressure on places, an increasing number of families from Sale and Altrincham have accessed a place in Partington, particularly with the support of the recently secured additional school transport route connecting Altrincham, Sale and Partington.
- The Dean Trust have requested to lead on project delivery of the scheme via a funding agreement. Trafford School Capital Projects team and Amey Major Projects team will provide a light-touch client / technical role to minimise risk to the Council and ensure due diligence.

High Needs

- 6.4** Since the last report to Executive dated 16 December 2022, there have been the following minor high needs capital schemes.
- Park Road Primary, Sale – accessibility works for a pupil placed at school via the Fair Access Protocol.
 - The Orchards – increase of 10 places through creation of a Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) suite.
- 6.5** Following a thorough analysis of the options and review by School Places and Capital Board, it is recommended to proceed with the following proposals:
- Brentwood School – expansion of 80 places (increased from the original 45 places proposed) and inclusion of individualised learning spaces.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1** Trafford has a Basic Need allocation of £19.177m for 2025/26, a nil allocation for 2024/25, along with an unallocated balance of £1.829m from 2023/24 (including £272k of requested S106 contributions yet to be received from Housing Developers). Grant allocations are based on projections of pupil numbers across both the primary and secondary sectors. Although this is not a ring-fenced grant it, is a Council priority to ensure sufficient primary and secondary school places exist.

- 7.2** Additional capital funding is required to complete the project at Altrincham College. Complexities with the school site in a green belt area, along with Sport England objecting at pre-planning stage to the creation of a 2-storey solution which utilised part of the school field. The alternative solution is to demolish an existing block and provide both replacement of existing teaching spaces in this block, along with the additional teaching accommodation requirements in a 3-storey building. This has added to the budget requirements due to the re-provision of some classrooms and the need for temporary accommodation during the building project.
- 7.3** In the Education and Early Years Capital Programme report of 16 December 2022, £2.7m was allocated to Egerton School for the creation of a 6th form provision from High Needs Provision Capital. The scheme was delivered by internal adaptations at Trafford Alternative Education Provision rather than new buildings on the Egerton site. The scheme provided Egerton 6th form with a separate entrance along with office and teaching spaces. It is proposed that the remaining funding be returned for reallocation to other priority High Needs projects.
- 7.4** The projects proposed in this report are at the budget estimate stage and are yet to be fully costed, the estimated capital expenditure of £14.766m can be financed from the following funding streams:
- Basic Need Capital Grant 2025-26
 - High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) 2023-24 reallocation
 - S106 Developer contributions requested for secondary provision in the Partington/ Carrington areas (estimated and yet to be received), will be forward funding by Basic Need Capital Grant.

As detailed in Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Table 1 & Table 2

8. Legal Position

- 8.1** It is important to note that the Council has a general duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure that there are available in its area sufficient schools in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education (s. 14 (2)). This general duty has been characterised as a target duty in *Meade v London Borough of Haringey* [1979], rather than absolute, though the Council must be able to show a reasonable cause i.e., an emergency, as to why it cannot fulfil the duty and it must take all statutory steps to overcome obstacles to its fulfilment (*R v Inner London Education Authority ex parte Ali and Another* [1990] COD 317).
- 8.2** In addition, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 amends Section 14 of the 1996 Act by inserting a new subsection (3A) to require local authorities in England, when exercising their powers on the provision of schools in their area under that section, to do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.
- 8.3** The Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016 to secure free early years provision for eligible children in their area, as supplemented by The Childcare (Free of Charge for Working Parents) (England) Regulations 2022 as amended by The Childcare (Free of Charge for Working Parents) (England) (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2023.

- 8.4 The Council has a general duty under Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide a safe working environment and hence respond to condition issues, which have health and safety implications.
- 8.5 Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Council to secure special educational provision in accordance with a child's or young person's Education, Health and Care Plan.

9. Other Options

- 9.1 When considering the expansion of a school, the local authority must consider the impact on neighbouring schools and the proposed options will meet the needs of both current and future catchment area children and allow the local authority to accommodate in year applicants that cannot achieve places elsewhere, creating the least impact on other schools.
- 9.2 None of the capital grants are ring-fenced and could be used for other Council priorities; however the proposals align with the Council's strategic vision, outcome and priorities and in particular that 'all our residents will have access to quality learning, training and jobs'. The proposals also ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory obligations.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 Further consultation will be required as changes to schools' status including closure, expansion, amalgamation and new schools are subject to statutory consultation processes and these will be complied with for each scheme. All proposals will be subject to other statutory processes as required, including school organisation processes for making significant changes to provision and planning processes.
- 10.2 Individual consultation on the larger schemes has been carried out appropriately and in accordance with the relevant school governance structures. Further, more extensive consultation will be carried out with Governing Bodies if the schemes contained within the report are agreed.

11. Reasons for Recommendation

- 11.1 To further the strategic vision, outcome and priorities of the Council and to ensure compliance with the Council's statutory duties as highlighted throughout this report.

Key Decision: Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer ClearanceMH.....

Legal Officer ClearanceEM.....

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE *(electronic)*

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jill McGregor". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Jill McGregor

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

Appendix A – Proposed Capital Projects

BASIC NEED CAPITAL PROGRAMME – TABLE 1		£m
Allocation c/f from previous report (Dec '22)		1.829
Less £272k of S106 for Altrincham area still be received and added to Education Capital Programme (from previous report – Dec '22)		(0.272)
Savings/overspend from previous schemes		1.047
2024-25 allocation		0.000
2025-26 allocation		19.177
Total Basic Need available		21.781
School	Work	Estimated Cost £m
Stretford High School	PAN increase of 10 per year group from Sept-23	0.100
Altrincham College	Expansion (PAN increase of 60) including contribution from S106 (Approved Dec-22) Additional funding required to develop 3-storey option due to the site being in greenbelt and Sport England objection	5.566
Broadoak School	Expansion (PAN increase of 60) including contribution from S106	6.800
Total Cost of schemes		12.466
Total Available		21.781
Balance Basic Need still to allocate		9.315
Developer contributions requested but not secured or received via Section 106 (Secondary provision in Partington & Carrington)		1.925

HIGH NEEDS (SEND) CAPITAL PROVISION PROGRAMME – TABLE 2		£m
Allocation c/f from previous report (Dec '22)		0.013
Reallocation of previously approved High Need monies*		2.525
2024-25 allocation		Awaiting announcement in Spring 2024
Total		2.538
School	Work	Estimated Cost £m
Park Road Primary, Sale	Access requirements (WC and ramp) for pupil placed at School via FAP	0.021
The Orchards	Creation of PMLD space and WC alterations	0.179
Brentwood School	Increase in Scope: Increase pupil numbers by 80 (rather than 45 places) and includes individualised learning spaces	2.100
		£m
Total Cost of schemes to be approved		2.300
Total Allocation Available		2.538
Balance still to allocate		0.238

- * Significant savings from Egerton 6th form budget. The scheme was delivered by internal adaptations at Trafford Alternative Education Provision rather than new buildings at Egerton. The scheme provided Egerton 6th form with a separate entrance along with office and teaching spaces. Remaining funding is required to fund other High Needs priorities.

Appendix B – Update on Previous High Needs (SEND) capital projects

2018 schemes

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
2018.1	Secondary	New Autism Spectrum Condition Class (ASC) in two mainstream secondary schools for between 10 to 15 pupils per class with additional support from Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Healthy Young Minds.	Provision opened at Lostock College in September 2018.
2018.2	Egerton School	Provide a nurture class and outdoor area for year 7 and 8 pupils to aid their transition.	Provision opened in September 2018.
2018.3	Delamere School	Provision of toilets to support the needs of ambulant pupils as the geographical primary special school model takes effect.	Works completed over Summer 2018.
2018.4	Pictor Academy	Provision of hoists in both KS1 and KS2 to support the needs of non-ambulant pupils as the geographical primary special school model takes effect.	Works completed to KS1 area in 2018 Works completed to KS2 area in 2019.
2018.5	Moorlands Junior	Improvements to existing small specialist class to support social communication in designation.	Works completed over Summer / Autumn 2018.
2018.6	Delamere School	Refurbishment/enlargement of hydrotherapy pool to meet the needs of all pupils at the School.	New larger pool completed Jan 2021.

2018 bidding round

Ref No	Provision	Scheme	Funding request	Status
Bid 1	Wellfield Junior School	Creation of small lobby area, this can be used as quiet area to work along with improving the security of the Small Specialist Class.	£5,000	Successful.
Bid 2	Broomwood Primary School	Creation of a multi-sensory area within the pre-school.	£10,000	Successful.
Bid 3	Longford Park School	Creation of a multi-use games area.	£130,000-160,000	Partly Successful £80,000 awarded.

Bid 4	Longford Park School	Building adaptations (£15,000) and extension (£60,000).	£75,000	Partly Successful £15,000 awarded.
Bid 5	Gorse Hill Studios	Improvements to access and music provision.	£50,000	Unsuccessful. Revised bid received Feb 2019 was successful.

2019 schemes

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
2019.1	EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS REQUIRED Secondary School Planned opening in September 2020	New Autism Spectrum Condition Class (ASC) in a further mainstream secondary school for between 10 to 15 pupils per class with additional support from Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Healthy Young Minds.	Expansion to provision at Lostock College. Works to be completed over Summer 2021.
2019.2	Egerton School	Increase provision from 56 to 65 places by Sept 2020. Provision of mobile accommodation to support increase in pupil numbers. The additional accommodation will allow School to develop a fitness suite and further therapy suite.	Works completed Summer 2020.
2019.3	Manor Academy	Increase provision by 25 places, including a change in the sixth form age range to include a 3 rd year (age 16-19). Redevelopment of existing Sale West Development Centre into 4 classrooms to allow multi-use of this area and support increase in pupil numbers and age range.	Works completed November 2019.

2021 schemes

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
2021.1	Firs Primary School (primary mainstream)	Additional small specialist class required for 10 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs. Planned opening in September 2022.	SSC works being undertaken in conjunction with a School expansion to 3FE. Currently on site and works to complete by Summer 2023.

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
2021.2	Longford Park School (primary SEMH special school)	Additional capacity for 6-8 places to meet needs of primary age children who present with SEMH/ASC/social communication needs and behaviour that challenges.	Works have received planning permission and have been tendered, and are due to take place over Summer 2022.
2021.3	Pictor Academy (primary special school)	Individualised learning space for children who require low stimulating environment and high adult support throughout the school day.	Works completed Summer 2021.
2021.4	Delamere School (primary special school)	Reconfiguration of nursery/early years classrooms to ensure a fit for purpose learning environment for additional numbers.	Works completed Summer 2021.
2021.5	Expressions of interest invited from Trafford mainstream secondary schools	New small specialist class to meet autism spectrum / social communication needs in a mainstream secondary school for between 10 to 15 pupils per class. With additional support from Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Healthy Young Minds. Planned opening in September 2022.	Works at Wellington School have received planning permission, have been tendered and are due to take place over Summer 2022.
2021.6	Expressions of interest invited from Trafford mainstream primary schools	New small specialist class required for 10 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs. Planned opening in September 2022.	No further primary SSC progressed in 2021. There will be a further EOI round in 2022.

2021 bidding round

Ref No	Provision	Scheme	Funding request	Status
Bid 1	Well Green Primary	Accessibility requirements for pupil	Nil from HNPCA	Works due Summer 2022 from other LA funding
Bid 2	Moss Park Infant	SSC - new area for pupils with EHC	10,000	Complete
Bid 3	Longford Park	sensory area	10,000	Complete
Bid 4	Pictor	outdoor area	40,000	Planned Summer 2022

Bid 5	Flixton Girls	Alt Prov for girls	35,000	Complete
Bid 6	Lime Tree Primary	EOI – SSC for EYFS, KS1 & KS2	Nil	Not taken forward in 2021
Bid 7	Trafford Alt Educ	Gym & sensory space	31,500	School lead scheme
Bid 8	Springfield Primary	1:1 pod spaces	5,000	Complete
Bid 9	Lostock High	Outdoor area	35,000	School lead scheme
Bid 10	Barton Clough Primary	WC refurb for SSC pupils	15,000	Planned Summer 2022
Bid 11	Lime Tree Primary	Accessibility for pupil – alterations to pathway	9,500	Complete
Bid 12	Seymour Park Primary	Outdoor area	50,000	Planned Summer 2022
Bid 13	Wellacre Academy	Accessibility for pupil – installation of closomat	6,930	Complete
Bid 14	Wellington	sensory garden	2,000	On hold until SSC works completed
Bid 15	Heyes Lane Primary	Outdoor area	3,000	Complete
Bid 16	Gorse Hill Studios	Music studio	50,000	Provider lead scheme
Bid 17	Wellfield Infant	EOI – increase in SSC	Nil	Not taken forward in 2021
Bid 18	Delamere	1:1 learning pod	10,800	Complete

2022 schemes

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
2022.1	Brentwood School (secondary)	Expansion for increasing cohort size. Additional capacity for 45 places to meet needs of secondary age children.	Proposal increased to provide 80 places (10 places a year) and create individual learning spaces. Contractor selected and scheme being designed for Planning application.
2022.2	Egerton School (secondary)	Creation of new 6 th form facility.	Internal adaptations carried out at Trafford Alternative Education Provision to create a separate 6 th form entrance, office and teaching spaces. Completed Summer 2023.
2022.3	Longford Park School (primary SEMH special school)	Further 2 classrooms to create additional capacity for 16 places to meet needs of primary age children who present with SEMH/ASC/social	A further classroom created in the former play shelter and internal adaptations to create a second classroom.

Ref No	School	Scheme	Update
		communication needs and behaviour that challenges.	Completed Autumn 2023.
2022.4	SSC - Primary School in North	Additional small specialist class required for 20 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs.	Working with a Primary School in North to adapt and extend to create the required spaces.
2022.5	SSC - Primary School in Central	Additional small specialist class required for 20 pupils across key stages 1 and 2 for pupils with a range of complex needs.	Reviewed options at two Primary Schools that expressed an interest in 2022. Still to agree on location of the SSC and solution to deliver SSC places. Further EOI to go out to schools in the spring 2024.