

Delegated Decision Report

Decision below £250k



Subject:	Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP)
Decision maker: Senior Officer	Matthew Bulmer (Director of Education, Skills, and Early Years)
Decision maker: Cabinet Member	Councillor Mohon Ali (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)
Decision date:	24 th July 2025
Report author:	Jason Hudson (Schools Capital Project Manager)
Ward (s):	All

Reason for decision

The LA currently has circa £8.3 M of High Needs Provision Capital Allocations Funding. A number of projects were approved in 2024, and these have now been completed and are operating effectively and offering additional places for children with additional needs in improved and purpose-built learning environments.

We are continuing to develop a number of major projects (those costing over 250k) and these will be the subject of a Cabinet Report in June 2025. This report is focused on and seeks approval for two lower cost projects that can be quickly delivered, these are summarised below:

Northmoor Academy Primary School (Harmony trust)

Northmoor Academy Primary School is run by The Harmony Trust. The project funding for this school will increase access to mainstream places for 28 additional pupils who may otherwise require specialist provision

Enhancement of the current provision space within existing school (refurbishment of classrooms and other areas) to provide new areas for children with SEND, EHCP and SEMH needs, including....

Changing room
TOPAZ classroom
Sensory therapy room
Teaching room
Wet/Life Skills unit
SEND classroom

Changing room
Nurture room
Library
Unisex WC's
Upgrade security access control
External works (fencing, seating area, forest school etc)

Total Funding: £246,320 (contingency included within budget costs)

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that approval is given to issue grant funding from the HNPCA Capital Fund to the schools listed in order to enhance provision for pupils with SEND and additional needs.

Background

The demand for ARP in mainstream settings continues to increase. The above projects will enhance existing provision in this school allowing for an improved curriculum and learning offer for pupils with SEND and additional needs.

Alternative option(s) to be considered

There are no alternative options.

Consultation

All schools and academy trusts have been consulted prior to projects being considered and funding allocated.

Risks

The Council will require confirmation that academies have appropriate insurance in place before releasing funds for the works.

Implications

Financial	<p>The cost of the associated works is £246,320 and will be a charged to the Educational capital programme 2025/26, which will be funded from the High Needs Provision Capital Grant Allocation (HNPCA) Any unspent budget will be returned to the HNPCA provision budget. This school is part of Academy Trust and as such can reclaim their own VAT, therefore any repayments to the school will be paid net of VAT. The works will be commissioned directly by the school and funding paid to the school as part of a Grant Funding Agreement.</p> <p>Paula Buckley – Finance Manager</p>
Legal	<p>The proposal will benefit the students at the schools and further demonstrate the ongoing commitment by the Council to the education of the children of the Borough with particular emphasis upon the most vulnerable children in the borough.</p> <p>Consideration should be given around the Grant Agreement and there should be liaison with procurement and legal services to satisfy the Council that the document is appropriate, and the funding is utilised correctly.</p> <p>(Alex Bougatef)</p>
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	There are no equality implications.
Other	n/a

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

1. SEND and Inclusion Strategy (2023-2027)

Report author sign-off	Jason Hudson
Role	Schools Capital Project Manager
Date of sign-off	26.06.2025

Approval	
Officer approval sign-off	Matt Bulmer
Role	Director of Education, Early Years and Skills
Date of sign-off	26.06.2025

Approval	
Member(s) approval sign-off	Councilor Mohon Ali
Role	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Date of sign-off	24.7.2025