
Report to CABINET

Yew Tree Community School - Capital Works

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Mohon Ali, (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)

Officer Contact: Paul Tinsley (Director of Education, Early Years and Skills)

Report Author: Jason Hudson (Schools Capital Project Manager)

19 January 2026

Reason for Decision

This report seeks cabinet approval for a capital project that will offer additional places and enhance provision for pupils with additional needs at Yew Tree Primary School.

It also seeks approval for the allocation of funding from HNPCA and Basic Need Grant towards the scheme.

Executive Summary

This report relates to a project at Yew Tree Community School that will enhance existing provision and provide additional provision for KS1 pupils with additional needs. These proposals are now developed sufficiently for costs and proposals to be placed before the Cabinet for a final decision. This project will create a total of 24 new places in the school for children with additional needs.

Currently the Local Authority has around £2.8 M of Basic Need funding and £7.5 M of High Needs Capital Allocation Funding. It is proposed that where projects will generate additional places these projects are funded from the HNPCA Grant provision

Project Outlines and Recommendation

Yew Tree Community School

Yew Tree Community School serves the Chadderton area of Oldham and is a Community Primary School. This project will increase access to KS1 places for 24 children who may otherwise require specialist provision. This provision will have an emphasis on children with complex communication and interaction needs. Children enrolled in this provision would have SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) as their primary area of need. This project will lead to additional places and improved provision for children in Oldham. Currently there is no specialist provision

within this planning area which means children often are required to travel to other provision outside of their local area

Yew Tree Community School is a mainstream primary school and currently caters for 647 pupils. The proposed project will provide a modular building situated on the school grounds adjacent to KS2 main classrooms, this modular building will provide 2 large classrooms (split into 4 with movable walls), 3 intervention rooms, staff area and toilets. This will provide a smooth transition between the two buildings. Classrooms are to be designed to accommodate a maximum group size of between 6-12 pupils

The total cost of this project is estimated to be in the region of 592,100 (a total of **£651,310** when including 10% contingency). It is proposed that this project is funded from the LA High Needs grant provision.

1 Background

- 1.1 Demand for ARP provision in mainstream schools has risen substantially in recent years. The option recommended in this report provides an opportunity for the Council to provide funding to enhance this provision in line with its Corporate Priorities, to provide a great start and skills for life.

This project will be overseen by Oldham Borough Council, there is no HR, Health and Safety, environmental health, property, IT or community cohesion implications arising from the report

2 Procurement Implications

- 2.1 There are no procurement implications arising from the report.

3 Risk Assessments

- 3.1 The Council will provide all site specific documentation before commencement of works

4 Current Position

- 4.1 LA has a statutory obligation to create suitable school places for all children, this includes those with SEN and EHCP's. It is an ambition of the LA's SEND and Inclusion Strategy to increase places in special schools, where appropriate for children with additional needs. This enables children to have their needs met as part of an inclusive education offer leading to better outcomes for these children. It also has the additional benefit of reducing the need for costly independent provision outside the borough. Over the last 3 years there has been an increase of children with SLCN having to be placed in out of borough provision and independent provision due to lack of sufficiency and this has a significant impact on the High Needs Budget.

5 Options/Alternatives

- 5.1 Option 1: Approve the above capital investment for the project listed above to deliver the ambitions of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023-2027.
- 5.2 Option 2: Do not approve the projects and risk not fulfilling the above strategy.

6 Preferred Option

- 6.1 Option 1.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 All Primary and Secondary schools including all MATS (Multi Academy Trusts) that operate in Oldham.

8 Financial Implications

Capital Implications

- 8.1 The proposed works to provide KS1 provision and offer additional places for and enhance provision for pupils with additional needs represents capital expenditure and will be a charge against the People – Children's Services capital programme.
- 8.2 The estimated cost of the works is £651,310 inclusive of a 10% contingency figure.
- 8.3 The works will be wholly funded from HNPCA or Basic Need Grant. Provision exists within the capital programme to support these works.
- 8.4 The works are expected to be wholly undertaken and completed in 2026/27.

Jit Kara – Senior Accountant

8.2 Financial Implications – (Resources)

The proposed Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) at Yew Tree will be funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The High Needs Block covers funding to support provision for pupils and students with SEND who require additional resources to participate in education and learning, from their early years to age 25 in a range of provision including special schools, mainstream schools, alternative provision, and independent specialist provision. The funding also contributes towards council centrally retained expenditure for High Needs.

The opening of the ARP at Yew Tree for 24 places would result in £327k of required revenue funding per annum from the High Needs Block, split between base and high needs top up funding. This would be offset, in part, by savings in other areas of the High Needs Block where the pupils may be currently accessing funding.

Vicky Gibbons – Senior Accountant

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 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.

Alex Bougatef - Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

- 9.2 Any contracts for the supply of works, goods or services must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and all relevant legislation/ regulations. All land transactions will need to comply with the Land and Property Protocol. All financial transactions must comply with the Financial Procedure Rules.
- 9.3 The report author has confirmed continued compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules and Land and Property Protocol.
- 9.4 Legal issues and risks must continue to be reported, managed and mitigated through the usual finance and audit processes of the Council.
- 9.5 The Council must be satisfied it can meet the objectives and terms and conditions and milestones of funding imposed by the funding authority including any obligation to provide match funding and to monitor, keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns. Officers must also check the terms and do not conflict with other funding conditions for the scheme/s or project/property already in place. Officers are to work with legal, finance and audit colleagues to approve and finalise the terms of any grant agreement required and must comply with the terms of any consents given regarding the reallocation of grant funding.

Rebecca Boyle - Corporate Group Solicitor

10 Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People

- 10.1 There are no negative implications for vulnerable groups or children and young people.

11 Key Decision

- 11.1 Yes

12 Key Decision Reference

- 12.1 EDS-13-25

13 Background Papers

- 13.1 SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023-2027

14 Appendices

- 14.1 Yew Tree Community School BUDGET COSTS (27/10/2025)