

Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Implementation of the National Wraparound Childcare Programme
Decision Maker:	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
SLT Lead:	Tara Geere, Director of Starting Well (DCS)
Report Author and contact details:	Pooneeta Mahadeo School Organisation Manager pooneeta.mahadeo@havering.gov.uk 01708 431092
Policy context:	The government's aim is for all parents of primary school children who need it to be able to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This will help to ensure that parents have enough childcare to work full time, more hours and with flexible hours.
Financial summary:	Capacity funding with a potential value of £510,831.91 has been allocated to Havering over 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand. Funding of £346k split across 23/24 and 24/25 is confirmed

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	as available, with the remaining £164k being provisional for 25/26.
Reason decision is Key	Capacity funding of £510,831.91 has been allocated to Havering over 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand.
Date notice given of intended decision:	30 November 2023
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee:	People
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents **X**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

- For the Section 151 officer to sign off the relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) included in the section 31 grant determination letter – Appendix 1 for receipt of the grant.
- The Section 151 officer **should accept the terms of the MoU by completing this MS Forms [questionnaire](#).**
- For the Section 151 officer to agree for the grant funding to be spent in accordance with the conditions of grant.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.10 Statutory Officer Functions

3.10.3 S151 Officer Functions

(m) To accept grants and the terms and conditions thereof for and on behalf of the Council.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In March 2023, the government announced £289 million in funding over three financial years (FY), 2023-24 to 2025-26, to ensure that all parents of primary school children who need it, are able to access wraparound childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm.

The table below shows the amount of grant allocated to Havering

	Maximum grant allocation			
Local Authority	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26 (Provisional)	Total
Havering	£8,240.52	£338,415.28	£164,176.11	£510,831.91

The purpose of the grant is to support local authorities in England to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand.

With this grant, local authorities should work with and fund primary schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, including childminders, to introduce or expand before- and after-school childcare provision in their area where there is a gap in availability. As part of this programme the government wants local authorities, schools and providers to test flexible approaches and gather evidence of what works.

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Payment will be made in five instalments, the first upon acceptance of the MoU and the remainder upon receipt and the Department's approval of a delivery plan as per the schedule below:

October 23	Local authority allocations and grant determination letter published. MoU issued to local authorities
November 23 Onwards	Local authorities sign and return the MoU to DfE
December 23	Grant payment 1 FY 2023-24 – local authority capacity funding paid when MoU signed
23 February 24	Local authorities submit local authority capacity plan
May 24	Grant payment 2 FY 2024-25 – local authority capacity funding paid once capacity delivery plan approved
7 May - 14 June 24	Window for local authorities to submit local authority programme delivery plan
June 24 – July 24	DfE confirm local authority programme delivery plan approval and grant payment 3 FY 2024-25 made
21 February 25	Local authorities submit local authority programme delivery plan update 1
May 25	Grant payment 4 FY 2025-26 – programme funding paid once delivery plan update approved
November 25	Local authorities submit programme local authority delivery plan update 2
April 26	Grant payment 5 FY 2025-26 – final programme funding paid in arrears upon completion of final reporting requirements

Each grant payment is contingent on the local authority:

- i. returning the signed MoU before receipt of the first payment
- ii. submitting, of sufficient quality for DfE approval, a costed capacity delivery plan before receipt of the second payment, a costed programme delivery plan before receipt of the third payment and a delivery plan update for DfE approval before each subsequent payment
- iii. completing all required programme reporting and evaluation activity
- iv. completing a Statement of Grant Usage at the end of each financial year, by the required deadlines
- v. having and making available, as required, a transparent process for allocating funding to suppliers and/or childcare providers
- vi. ensuring they have sufficient capacity to deliver the programme requirements, using a reasonable proportion of the grant to cover the costs incurred

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- vii. ensuring that where funding is dispersed to PVI childcare providers, including childminders, all such childcare providers are registered with Ofsted (or in the case of childminders, Ofsted or a childminder agency) to provide school-age childcare before childcare provision commences
- viii. having in place a process to monitor and mitigate the risk of childcare providers receiving double funding for the same activities.

The Commissioning School Places team will manage the grant and will be responsible to submit a costed capacity delivery plan, a delivery plan and delivery plan update to the DfE. The team will complete all required programme reporting and evaluation activity and the statement of grant usage at the end of each financial year by the required deadlines.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

None

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Pooneeta Mahadeo

Designation: School Organisation Manager

Signature: P. Mahadeo

Date: 01/12/2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

To receive the Grant, the MoU needs to be signed and returned to the DfE. The Local Authority must abide by the conditions detailed in the grant determination letter and MoU.

Alongside the S31 grant determination letter, each local authority's Director of Children's Services will be issued with a MoU for signature. The MoU is a non-legally binding document that sets out the agreement between the local authority and the Secretary of State relating to the payment to the local authority of the grant funding for the delivery of the programme. Whilst this is non-legally binding, local authorities are expected to use the programme funding in line with the expectations in the MoU. The Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer for each local authority must sign and return the MoU as required. On receipt of the signed MoU, DfE will make the first grant payment. These will be paid from December 2023 onwards.

The MoU sets out the purpose of the grant and expectations of management and use of the grant, including, funding arrangements, reporting and evaluation requirements and eligible expenditure.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

In March 2023, the government announced £289 million in funding over three FY, 2023-24 to 2025-26, to ensure that all parents of primary school children who need it, are able to access wraparound childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm.

Of this, £274 million is available to local authorities over the three FY as follows: £2.8 million in 2023-24, £185 million in 2024-25 and £86.2 million in 2025-26. This has been issued as a s.31 grant, with clear conditions attached to the funding which are outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Attached to this document at Appendix 1.

Havering has been awarded a potential grant amount of £510,831.91 to be received over a three-year period, commencing in financial year 2023-24. The funding in 2025-26 is clearly outlined as provisional in the award if the grant was not received activity linked to this funding would need to stop or be sourced from alternative funding. There is no budget for this activity in 2025/26. The table below outlines the breakdown of the funding.

	Maximum grant allocation			
Local Authority	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Provisional)	Total
Havering	£8,240.52	£338,415.28	£164,176.11	£510,831.91

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The grant is a revenue grant that is intended to support the infrastructure and set up of the delivery of the wraparound service. The 2023-24 grant allocation is intended to fund LA's capacity cost (including staffing, administration, and any other internal costs associated with the delivery of this programme), with an indicative median for 2024-25 and 2025-26 of 11% of the year allocation for LA's to meet that obligation.

The LA is expected to produce a local authority capacity plan in February 2024, outlining the planned use of the grant over the three year term. Following the submission of the capacity plan, there is a further return of the local authority delivery plan, submission between May and June 2024, setting out the planned use of funding for the duration of the programme up until 2026.

In order to ensure that the grants are received at the prescribed dates, the LA needs to undertake the above submissions to the DfE to receive the applicable grants to meet the goals of the programme.

In addition, the Local Authority is required to comply with DfE grant assurance processes and must submit a Statement of Grant Usage by the following dates:

29 April 24	End of FY 2023-24 Statement of Grant Usage
28 April 25	End of FY 2024-25 Statement of Grant Usage
28 April 26	End of FY 2025-26 Statement of Grant Usage

The End of FY Statement of Grant Usage must be signed by the section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

Failure to meet grant return requirements incurs the risk of grant withdrawal, and failure to award further grant tranches.

It should be noted that the funding for this provision halts in 2025-26. Therefore if the wraparound provision established is not self-funding by that stage there is a risk of expectation that the Council continue to fund the provision for which there is no funding. The service are aware of this risk and addressing it in the delivery model for the wraparound service.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no Human Resource implications of, or risks relating to, the proposed decision.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

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The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The purpose of the grant is to support local authorities in England to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand.

This grant will support provision that will enable parents to re-enter or remain in the workforce. This grant will benefit all members of the family:

- the children who benefit from attending high-quality wraparound childcare
- the parents who are able to accept employment opportunities that otherwise would not be open to them.

Research indicates that high-quality, early intervention programmes can enhance social, cognitive and academic development of children, particularly those who are economically disadvantaged, or from ethnically diverse backgrounds. However, evidence of the social benefits of child care have been more mixed – children who spend a long period of time in centre-type child care settings have been linked to negative social behaviour, but at the same time associated with positive improvements in academic achievement later in life. These positive impacts on academic outcomes through senior school are most evident in low income children, where higher rates of unemployment and less criminal activity is also observed.

Overall, therefore the benefits of wraparound childcare are more likely to be observed in children from deprived backgrounds, which will also assist in tackling inequalities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environment and/or climate change implications associated with this Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Section 31 grant determination letter

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed

Name: Kathy Freeman

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title: Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources, Section 151 Officer

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

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