

Question: PQ10.01

Cabinet – 13 July 2021

Re: Agenda item 10 Education Capital Programme: SEND Sufficiency – Elmfield School for Deaf Children & Trinity Academy

Question submitted by: Sally Kent

The SEND capital plan requires approx £28m in funding. The plan currently stands around £13m short on funding with hopes of the shortfall being covered by the Department for Education or loans against the DSG. If these methods of funding prove unsuccessful will the Mayor guarantee the needed funds will be in place in order to complete the SEND capital plan?

Reply:

1. The SEND Sufficiency and Capital Proposals report we brought to cabinet in September 2020 outlined investment of over £28m in Bristol's special schools, which would see major improvements to current special schools as well as significantly increasing the number of specialist provision places in new and refurbished buildings for students with SEND.
2. A further cabinet paper is being developed for the Autumn which will invest the new grant funding received in the spring into the SEND Capital Plan.
3. A business case is being developed to define the benefit of borrowing in order to deliver the remainder of the plan and support the Council in securing the funding.