SEN Capital Funding Background

Local Authorities are responsible for making sure there are enough school places in their area. This includes places for pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities.

In March 2017, the government announced £215m of capital funding (increased to £265m in May 2018) to provide new school places, and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. Medway has been allocated £1.377m from this fund, paid over 3 years.

This funding can be used to either:

* Create additional places at good or outstanding provision
* Improve facilities or develop new facilities

The first years funding of £459,000 has already been assigned to projects. We are now looking to fund projects using the 2019/20 and 2020/21 allocations. There will be £459,000 available for each year.

To determine the best way to spend this funding, we are inviting schools and interested parties to submit bids for funding for projects. We are looking for bids that will make the most efficient use of the funding available. When the projects have been selected, we will consult and then prioritise which will be funded in 2019/20, and which will be funded in 2020/21. Depending upon the numbers of submissions received and the outcomes of the consultation, some bids may be unsuccessful.

The initial criteria which all projects must meet are:

* Education Provider must be Ofsted rated as Good or Outstanding
* Bid must result in an increase in the number of places offered to children and/or young people who have SEND
* The funding would not be used for maintenance work which would be covered by Devolved Formula Capital or School Condition Allocations
* The funding is not intended for revenue expenditure such as furniture or teaching apparatus, teacher training or other staff costs
* The funding will be used to provide facilities for children with EHCPs The timetable for this process is as follows:
* Bidding round opens: 17 December 2018
* Bidding round closes: 25 January 2019
* Selection of successful bids: 1 week - 28 January to 1 February 2019
* Consultation of proposed programme: 4 February to 1 March 2019
* Publication of plan: by 31 March 2019