

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Briefing for Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 18 March 2014**

ACHIEVING TWO YEAR OLDS' CAPITAL ALLOCATION MARCH 2014 UPDATE

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1. Summary

1.1 A briefing was provided in September 2013, outlining the intended process for the £557,903 of capital funding that has been allocated to Early Years.

The capital funding is intended to support:

- the provision of an increased number of free places for two year old children who meet specific criteria;
- the building of capacity to deliver additional places for 2 year olds within Private, Voluntary, Independent and Maintained Early Years' provision in response to this becoming statutory for 20% of two year olds in September 2013, increasing from 10 to 15 hours and increasing to 40% of two year olds from 2014.

2. Background

2.1 Free Early Education for two year olds became statutory in September 2013 for the 20% of two year olds whose parents are in receipt of benefits eligible for Free School Meals, and also Looked After Children. This will increase to 40% of two year olds in September 2014.

2.2 The Council will have the same statutory duty to provide sufficient places for eligible two year olds, as it does for the universal provision for three and four year olds.

3. Briefing

3.1 Further to our previous briefing provided in September 2013, below is a summary of the four shortlisted schemes that are over £100k. Feasibility studies will be undertaken and provided they can be delivered on time and in budget they will go ahead.

- (i) Blossom Years Day Nursery - Chislehurst
£128k for a modular build to accommodate 20 additional two year olds

- (ii) Honeys Nursery – Biggin Hill
£130k for a modular build to accommodate 18 additional two year olds
- (iii) Southborough Pre-School – Bromley Common and Keston
£130k for a modular build to accommodate 18 additional two year olds
- (iv) Orpington Priory Nursery – Orpington
£100k for contribution to the renovation of the Library – the proposal is to provide a new Day Care Nursery facility at the old Orpington Library as part of a larger scheme.

- 3.2 If the larger schemes prove to be not feasible, funding will be reallocated to smaller projects with the same aim. We received several medium-sized bids for capital build of over £15k, and a large number of smaller bids.
- 3.3 Previously, we have entered into clawback agreements for any capital scheme of £15k or over and intend to use the same process for this capital funding.
- 3.4 Early Years officers conducted extensive investigations into the potential advantages of external consultants managing these projects under the terms of existing construction framework agreements.
- 3.5 Following this detailed appraisal, it was decided that Strategic Property Services could offer high quality support for these proposals in-house at a competitive rate. Strategic Property Services have created a detailed information pack for settings.
- 3.6 Site visits were scheduled for late February. Officers from Strategic Property Services and the Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Service visited each of the settings, and worked with setting managers to explain how the planning and construction process will develop.
- 3.7 Officers from the Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Service have set up local client groups for each project. The groups consist of stakeholders and local decision-makers who will be involved in overseeing the progress of these projects.
- 3.8 Further updates will be provided as required, and by September 2014 at the latest.