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Proposals for Prescribed Alterations: Extending the Age Range of Special Schools in Oxfordshire

Confirmation that costs will met by the Local Authority and Learning and Skills Council

The local authority will fund the revenue costs for young people remaining on the special school roll post 16. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has identified an additional £1.3m to support the delivery of more flexible transition arrangements from special schools to college provision. The funds will support young people who are on an FE college roll but who may be best accommodated in a school setting initially. The LSC funds are available between April 2008 and July 2009. In 2010 there is an expected change to the national funding scheme when demand led funding will be introduced, also statutory responsibilities will transfer from LSCs to local authorities in 2010/11. Details are not yet known.

Capital costs are estimated as between £2m and £4m over the period 2008 – 2011/12. This is subject to detailed site investigations and would be viewed within the overall needs and planned developments in each school. The cost of these proposals would be prioritised by the local authority with other requirements and set against the £8m Targeted Capital Fund grant allocation for 14-19 Diplomas, SEN & Disabilities in 2009/10 and 2010/11 bids.

Schools may be approached to contribute some or all of their devolved formula capital allocation towards major schemes in common with other schools. This sum would be spread over one or more years. The proposed capital programme 2008-11, currently awaiting full Cabinet approval also contains capital allocations which could be used to fund this work.

The LSC has offered to contribute "...up to a maximum of £1.3m from April 2008 to July 2009 via the three general FE colleges to deliver an agreed programme of learning to individual learners." The LSC has also offered "...the opportunity to apply for capital funds from the LSC 16 - 19 capital fund. In the short term, where rules apply, some of the additional LSC resource could be used for improving premises/facilities in schools for learners on the FE roll."





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