

## SEND Capital Investment Strategy (as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018)

### Results of consultation December 2017 to January 2018

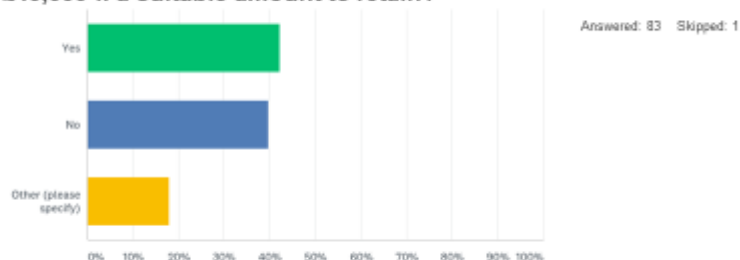
#### Background and Methodology

The capital fund is to support local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 to improve the quality and range of provision available to the local authority. It is intended for the children and young people with education, health and care plans for whom the local authority is responsible.

The nature of the research and objectives called for a quantitative and qualitative approach and a questionnaire was drawn up. The questionnaire was sent children and young people, parents, schools, colleges and independent providers.

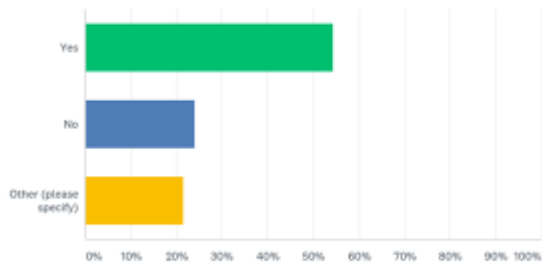
A total of 81 responses were received. The majority of responses were supportive of the draft strategy. However, there was some negative feedback regarding the proposal for 50/50 match funding (Question 6) and the suggested split was 25% provider funding with 75% from the SEND Capital Investment Fund. Originally, the strategy envisaged schools working together collaboratively to meet the proposed 50% provider costs, but it has been felt that the level of provider investment would be prohibitive for small schools. The results of the survey are set out below.

**Q1: It is proposed to retain £40,000 of the investment strategy as an access fund for the Local Authority to commission low level adjustments to schools in order to support a placement proposed in the EHCP. Do you feel that £40,000 is a suitable amount to retain?**



**Q2: It is proposed to use the Capital Investment Fund to target a number of smaller schemes to try and widen the reach of this investment. Do you agree with the proposal?**

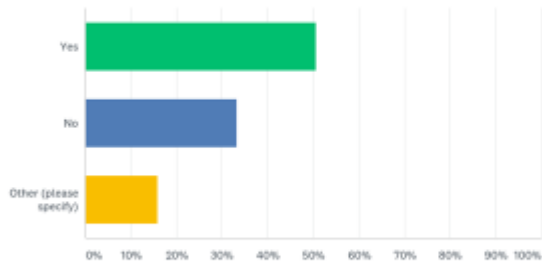
Answered: 79 Skipped: 5



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**Q3: The Capital Investment Fund will be allocated to projects in criteria order until the funding limit has been reached? Do you agree with the proposed criteria?**

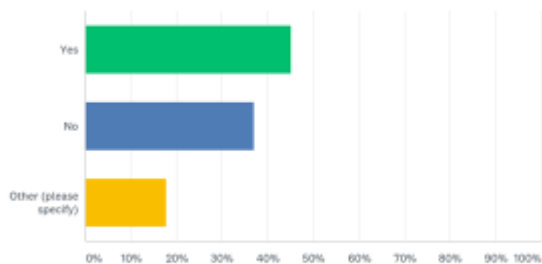
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**Q4: The bids will be scored against the criteria (out of 100 points). Do you agree with the proposed point scores indicated?**

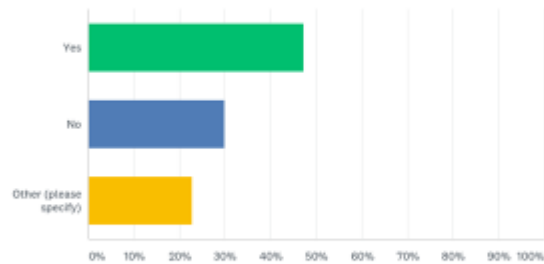
Answered: 62 Skipped: 22



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**Q5: A minimum level of the bid is £2,000 and the maximum £50,000, in addition the projects will be match funded by the provider at 50%. Do you feel that the minimum and max bids proposed are set a realistic amount?**

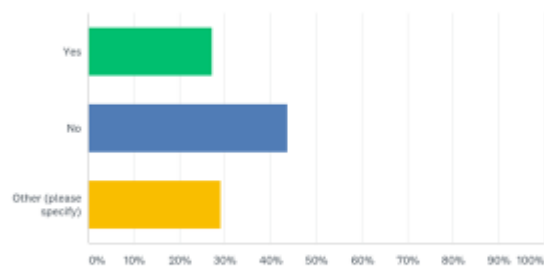
Answered: 57 Skipped: 27



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**Q6: Projects will be match funded by the provider at 50% of the project cost. Do you feel that the 50% is the right level proposed for settings?**

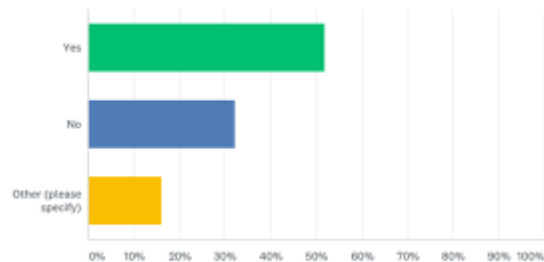
Answered: 55 Skipped: 29



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**Q7: Bids will be invited from providers between 2nd April 2018 and 4th May 2018 in order to try and approve some schemes required for the September 2018 intake. Do you agree with the proposed timeframe?**

Answered: 56 Skipped: 28



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During the previous consultation reported to the Cabinet in July 2012 there was a clear case made for a school to be located at the County Road site.

The purpose of this consultation was to gather stakeholder opinion on the draft SEND Capital Investment Strategy. The results of the consultation do indicate clear support for the proposed strategy with the exception of question 6 regarding the level of match funding.

## Consultation with Children and Young People

A consultation event was held at Nythe Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with nine children and young people with EHCP's organised by the STEP Group.

A slightly amended consultation questionnaire was prepared to tailor the questions to the relevant age group. The responses of the consultation were positive and are summarised in the tables below. Suggested priorities for spend from the group on support for future careers, apprenticeships and life skills will be incorporated into the criteria within the SEND Capital Investment Strategy.

[illegible][illegible]

Q5: Schools that are allocated the funding to improve their facilities should match the funding offer?					Q6: What is your year group?						
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	Post 16	Other

<p><b>Q7: What do you think the capital Investment Funding could be spent on?</b>  <b>(Carried out as a group activity)</b></p> <p><i>Putting funding into SEND centres - support outside of school</i>  <i>Work experience and careers and apprenticeships</i>  <i>My school (Crowdys Hill)</i>  <i>More support for EHCP process and those that don't meet the criteria</i>  <i>Social group / Youth clubs / access to sport &amp; leisure</i>  <i>Support around life skills</i>  <i>Play resources and sensory rooms</i></p>
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### Feedback from the survey and Local Authority responses

A number of comments were submitted on the survey form and are set out below with the Local Authority response. A number of comments were related to wider pressures and issues within SEND and are outside the remit of the consultation on this proposal. All feedback and suggestions have been gathered and reported back to the Strategic SEND Board as part of a review of the SEND strategy.

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
I think that tried and tested models should be looked at and then recreated in other settings.	The draft capital investment strategy proposes that providers submit applications for capital works, which can be based on existing best practice or tried and tested methods.

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
Yes. The borough lacks hard facts which shows. If you don't know how many apples are growing how do you know if you have enough baskets to put them in. This is a flash response to a poor situation and why was consumtation over Xmas? Busy time? Not many parents? Bit too convenient	The approved strategy must be published on Swindon's Local Offer by Wednesday 14th March 2018 in order to draw down the funding. The risk of granting an extension is that we would lose the Capital Investment Funding for children with EHCP's in Swindon.
How is 40,000 pounds enough? how many SEN children do you currently have? how many are going to become SEN each year? criteria should not be used all SEN children should ghet all thre funding and support that they need no matter how complex.	This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been fed back to the relevant teams.
Illegal under S31 of Capital Investment Funds. Please consult your DfE rep who will be informed	The Local authority has taken legal advice and understands what is proposed in the draft Capital Investment Strategy. We have complied with the guidance issued by the DFE and with S31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
Consultation too short. Parents at SN schools not informed. Grant rules clear. Your FOI requests on Sen funding are interesting and don't answer where monies have gone. No impact evaluation, no growth projections, no disability data.	The consultation was published in the public domain on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 with notifications being sent out to all Early Years settings, Schools, Special Schools, independent settings and parent and pupil forums have been attended. The Capital investment Strategy is not about providing resources to meet growth or identify needs, the purpose is about improving access to provision for children with EHCP's.
When considering proposed projects will consideration/priority be given to current state of school build? Some school building stock is less 'inclusion friendly' and where two comparable bids are received will prioritisation go to the school where building constraints are most hampering inclusive approaches?	Bids will be scored against the criteria and considered by a SEND Capital Panel. It is proposed that the Panel will include representatives from Education, Health and Social Care. The Local Authority will also request parental representation through the Contact service. Greater weight within each category will be given to joint schemes of more than one provider, where the improvements can be shared across a wider base and cohort.

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
<p>I feel that you should identify an area of greatest need and do something big. Something that will have a noticeable impact and benefit children in terms of greater accessibility across Swindon</p>	<p>All bids submitted will be scored against the criteria and considered by a SEND Capital Panel. Whilst the investment from central government is welcome, it is recognised that the level of funding allocated would not stretch to create, improve and update the provision for SEND required across the Borough.</p>
<p>As a SENCO, there are a few areas that I think it is essential to focus on, in order to reduce the number of permanent exclusions in primary education, and the number of Year 7s who are excluded: 1) The amount of 2 day/3 day placements at Nylands Behaviour Outreach must be extended. There are currently none available, due to PEx-ed children taking all the space. This is forcing schools to permanently exclude children in order to access specialist support, when this could be avoided if more provision existed. 2) There is very little specialist provision for children in Y6 who are at high risk of PEx in Year 7 - they cannot access the Youth Offending Team yet or any kind of provision to change their thinking. Yes, the SEMH team can help, but I believe a specialist team should exist to support with preventing anti-social behaviour before it starts. 3) The number of children with anxiety is going through the roof. In our setting, this is creating school-refusers and stressed parents. We need an additional setting, like Riverside but at primary level, who can offer short placements for children with very high anxiety levels, who are then under-performing critically and facing exclusion due to their anxiety. Nothing like this currently exists.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is aware of the data relating to exclusions and an alteration provision working group involving schools is seeking to address the issue. This proposal is specifically for children with EHCP's rather than those excluded from the system.</p>
<p>Extremely unfriendly business proposal. The attitude that it's vulnerable children / young adults human lives that us being dealt with. Please do not put value to human lives. Help &amp; support needs to happen basis the need &amp; not be limited to a budget cut off.</p>	<p>This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been feedback to the relevant teams.</p>

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
<p>Swindon are failing too many children with SEN, some children are forced out of education others are not provided with correct education they can access. This has to STOP NOW. Early intervention is nonexistent, parents are blamed and not supported leading to families reaching crisis point but when they do reach crisis point there is no help available either. Whilst teachers and teacher assistants are doing their best; school management don't want the hassle of children with SEN, this has to CHANGE NOW. Time for school management to be sent on training courses to see the damage they are causing</p>	<p>This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been feedback to the relevant teams.</p>
<p>Provision currently does not match need</p>	<p>Swindon has invested significantly in the provision exclusively for SEND by committing £11.6m since 2011 on a number of capital projects. In addition the Local Authority has supported the creation of a new secondary age Autistic Free School opening in September 2018. Whilst the investment from central government is welcome, it is recognised that the level of funding allocated would not stretch to create, improve and update the provision for SEND required across the Borough.</p>
<p>Good luck with the proposal as it is going to need it. I can't see settings putting in bids</p>	
<p>Inclusion into mainstream is not always the answer especially if the EHCP does not adequately cover the needs of the child through limited financial allocation. An across the board approach, supporting mainstream and expanding specialist provision within existing settings should be the answer</p>	<p>Local Authority understands the feedback. There is a wider range of SEN provision in Swindon and the Local Authority has invested significantly in the provision exclusively for SEND by committing £11.6m since 2011 on a number of capital projects. In addition the Local Authority has supported the creation of a new secondary age Autistic Free School opening in September 2018 .Whilst the investment from central government is welcome, it is recognised that the level of funding allocated would not stretch to create, improve and update the provision for SEND required across the Borough.</p>



Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
<p>More provision is still sought after! Mainstream schools cannot deal with our children and we are exhausted as parents. More projects are needed for children stuck in mainstream not accessing any education! It's not fair</p>	<p>Local Authority understands the feedback. There is a wider range of SEN provision in Swindon and the Local Authority has invested significantly in the provision exclusively for SEND by committing £11.6m since 2011 on a number of capital projects. In addition the Local Authority has supported the creation of a new secondary age Autistic Free School opening in September 2018 .Whilst the investment from central government is welcome, it is recognised that the level of funding allocated would not stretch to create, improve and update the provision for SEND required across the Borough.</p>
<p>More SRP provision is required. 3 for Swindon is woefully inadequate &amp; support in mainstream isn't often enough.</p>	<p>Local Authority understands the feedback. There is a wider range of SEN provision in Swindon and the Local Authority has invested significantly in the provision exclusively for SEND by committing £11.6m since 2011 on a number of capital projects. In addition the Local Authority has supported the creation of a new secondary age Autistic Free School opening in September 2018 .Whilst the investment from central government is welcome, it is recognised that the level of funding allocated would not stretch to create, improve and update the provision for SEND required across the Borough.</p>
<p>Many families feel let down by the support and resource available with Swindon education and are in desperate need for places helping with anxiety. Many schools are still 'managing out' their 'difficult' pupils causing distress and low self esteem. A borough wide campaign to do more to promote inclusion, fairness and understanding within all schools is vital and where they refuse, it needs to be dealt with.</p>	<p>This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been feedback to the relevant teams.</p>
<p>Please consider the chalet school very little funding and could use some new sensory equipment staff! We as parents have raised 800 pounds but it is a very under funded school and the children there are in need of much more than they</p>	<p>All schools/ settings will be able to submit a bid for the funding.</p>

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
have access to.	
You need to make these more widely known	The consultation was published in the public domain on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 with notifications being sent out to all Early Years settings, Schools, Special Schools, independent settings and parent and pupil forums have been attended.
I am unclear how this is going to support the growing number of sen. This is only going to increase with the number of premature babies surviving. It's not good enough	As set out in the draft strategy this level of funding is not to create additional places but it would be to invest in as many schemes as possible that meet the priorities to enable a greater proportion of children with SEND to benefit from this fund.
I welcome that SBC are asking these questions. If this level of searching for feed back were extended to include studies on transport, the increasing numbers of SEN children being home educated, or feedback on other strategies would also be nice...	This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been feedback to the relevant teams.
I worry about the emphasis on good and outstanding schools and mainstream schools. Some high rated mainstream schools are not well equip to support send children and it's unfair to penalise a good project at a suitable provision over a large well funded academy.	Bids will be scored against the criteria and considered by a SEND Capital Panel. It is proposed that the Panel will include representatives from Education, Health and Social Care. The Local Authority will also request parental representation through the Contact service. Greater weight within each category will be given to joint schemes of more than one provider, where the improvements can be shared across a wider base and cohort.
I think the whole approach to the management of SEND and funding needs to be completely revamped, to streamline processes and create accessible provision for all children	This response relates to wider SEND issues and is not covered by this consultation. Your concerns have been feedback to the relevant teams.
More money is needed for SEN children !	Swindon has invested significantly in the provision exclusively for SEND by committing £11.6m since 2011 on a number of capital projects. In addition the Local Authority has supported the creation of a new secondary age Autistic Free School opening in September 2018.

Stakeholder comments	LA's Response
Why isn't this publicised to the parents and professionals more?	The consultation was published in the public domain on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 with notifications being sent out to all Early Years settings, Schools, Special Schools, independent settings and parent and pupil forums have been attended.

### Conclusion

In conclusion against the stated aims the consultation:

- Does indicate clear support for the draft strategy
- Does suggest changes should be made to the level of match funding to 25% provider funding to safeguard against the level of match funding proving prohibitive to smaller schools.
- The scoring criteria should be widened to include priorities for spend from the group on support for future careers, apprenticeships and life skills suggested by Children and Young People.

The consultation responses drew out wider issues from stakeholders in relation to SEND, therefore all feedback and suggestions have been gathered and reported back to the Strategic SEND Board as part of a review of the SEND strategy.