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**COMMITTEE:** SOUTH WEST REF NO:SWAC/17/22  
**DATE:** 8 MARCH 2018  
**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST: HILLSIDE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** SIMON LANNING  
**HEAD OF SERVICE:** IAN BLOFIELD

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report requests that the Committee consider allocating £5,000 to Hillside Primary School to support the running of a breakfast club for pupils. The club provides free breakfast to pupils before school each day. Funding would sustain the offer of food without charge, thereby increasing inclusion and reducing barriers to learning for the most disadvantaged children.

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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**OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

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## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 This report requests that the Committee consider allocating £5,000 to Hillside Primary School to support the running of a breakfast club for pupils. The club provides free breakfast to pupils before school each day. Funding would sustain the offer of food without charge, thereby increasing inclusion and reducing barriers to learning for the most disadvantaged children.

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## 2. Background

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**Figure 1 – Hillside Primary school**

- 2.1 Hillside Primary School & Nursery is situated in Bridge Ward and provides learning to 601 children between 3 and 11 years mainly from the Maidenhall & Stoke area (547 live in IP2 postcode). The school community faces significant challenges for learning and wellbeing.
- 2.2 The majority of children attending the school live in neighbourhoods in the three most deprived deciles (30% most deprived) of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index<sup>1</sup>. Thirty percent of the school's children attract Pupil Premium Funding, and staff believe many other families are eligible but have not applied. 52% of the children have English as an Additional Language, which brings other challenges associated with family engagement, language barriers etc.
- 2.3 The school staff believe some pupils come to school in the morning without having eaten a meal, which affects their ability to concentrate and apply themselves during learning time. Some children arrive at school as early as 7.30am, due families competing demands.
- 2.4 One of the ways that Hillside Primary seeks to meet the needs of its community, alongside its core learning provision, is through the offer of a Breakfast Club for children before each school day. The Breakfast Club runs between 7.30am and when school starts at 8.25am and is a safe

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<sup>1</sup> Indices of Deprivation Map - <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html>.

place for children to be until the start of the school day. Children are able to have cereals, toast, juice or squash without charge. 109 children regularly attend and start the day without hunger as a barrier to learning. 102 children live in the IP2 postcode. When the school was assessed by Ofsted, the report on the Breakfast Club stated that “safeguarding procedures are rigorous and support for the most vulnerable is good... pupils feel very safe”

- 2.5 Alongside food, the club offers sports activities supervised by an Inspire Suffolk outreach worker. As well as entertaining the children, this benefits their health and wellbeing and helps remove any stigma to attending the club.
- 2.6 Prior to January 2018 the Breakfast Club offered 15 free spaces targeted to children with attendance concerns and a further 30 paying spaces at £2.50 per session to cover staff costs. At that time, numbers were dropping because some parents couldn't afford the session fee and other families felt a stigma attached to the free spaces.
- 2.7 The 15 free spaces were supported through Pupil Premium funding and the change to universal free places at the Breakfast Club came about because of a were review of the school's Pupil Premium Action Plan.
- 2.8 Pupil Premium is a Government subsidy to schools that supports the learning and inclusion of children from homes experiencing financial hardship. Children from such homes face barriers to learning and are less likely to achieve at school and to progress to higher education. This gap between average achievement and the achievement of these children is a measure of social mobility and equality of life chances.
- 2.9 Springfield Junior School won the National Pupil Premium Award in 2017 for its innovative management of the pupil premium grant and its support to children in need. A senior leader from Springfield Junior School was invited to support the review of the Hillside plan. One key recommendation was to replicate Breakfast Club arrangements at Springfield School. Changing to free access had increased attendance there and shown a positive impact on learning and wellbeing for the whole school.
- 2.10 Since the Hillside Breakfast Club was made free to all attendance has dramatically increased. 109 children regularly attend, with over 80 at each session. Notably this increase has benefited those children who are eligible for Pupil Premium most. From 33% of spaces benefiting them (15 targeted free spaces against 30 paid), the split is now 60% attendance of eligible against 40% not registered (though in many cases still in need).
- 2.11 This marked increase in attendance has exceeded expectations and the budget allowed for provision. The numbers attending mean that two additional staff members are required and the food costs have doubled.

- 2.12 The additional costs for the period since the Breakfast Club became free-to-all until the end of the school year (Jan-August) are estimated at £7,954. This is above the budget level set for the 2017-18 school year.
- 2.13 The annual cost for continuing to run the Breakfast Club at the current level of staffing and activity (one leader, three staff support and the Inspire Suffolk Sport Coach) is estimated at £17,075.
- 2.14 From September onwards, the school intends to cover the cost through a mixture of an increased share of the main school budget, Pupil Premium Grant and external funding. For the current school year, the team have secured £500 from County Councillor Jack Abbot's Locality budget and are seeking £5,000 from the South West Area Committee. The remaining £2,454 will be absorbed by the school budget.
- 2.15 **The amount requested of the South West Area Committee is £5,000**

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### **3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations**

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- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
- 3.2 To alleviate deprivation in the domains of:
- Education, Skills and Training

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### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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- 4.1 In deciding these options, the South West Area Committee is asked to use its discretion as to whether the evidence offered in section 10.4 is sufficient mitigation for the lack of business plan, as would normally be required by the Area Committee funding Protocol.
- 4.2 **Option 1** – Approve allocation of funding of £5,000 to Hillside Primary School to allow Breakfast Club spaces to be offered free to all children attending the school.
- 4.3 **Option 2** – Approve allocation of funding of a lesser amount up to £5,000 to Hillside Primary School toward the cost of running the Breakfast Club.
- 4.4 **Option 3** - Do not fund

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### **5. Consultations**

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- 5.1 Hillside Primary School's Pupil Premium strategy was recently reviewed by an independent assessor who is a senior leader at Springfield Junior School in Ipswich. Springfield Junior School won the National Pupil Premium Award in 2017 for the effective way they used their Pupil Premium funding. One of the suggestions that resulted from the review was to offer our Breakfast Club to all Hillside children free, based on the

evidence of the impact on attendance and learning when Springfield introduced similar arrangements.

- 5.2 Hillside staff visited Springfield Junior School to observe a session, to understand the routine, the activities available and the impact that it continues to have. They have subsequently introduced booster sessions at Hillside led by teachers and Higher Level Teaching Assistants to focus on filling gaps in the children's learning.
- 5.3 Based on the evidence at Springfield, it was agreed that Hillside should offer the breakfast club free from the beginning of January 2018, with the intention to introduce booster sessions in the next academic/financial year.
- 5.4 Attendance has soared to over 80 per session and continues to rise, with and approximate 60/40 split between Pupil Premium/non-Pupil Premium children.

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## 6. Risk Management

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- 6.1 The Hillside Primary School management team and trustees are responsible for the proper running of breakfast club and associated risks.

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
Accident resulting from Breakfast Club activity	Injury to child	School risk assessment of activity elements  Staff training  Health and Safety Policy  Staffing levels	2	2
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>				
The Breakfast Club has been running successfully and staff have researched best practice from a flagship school.				
The school staff and Inspire Suffolk staff are appropriately trained and the governance/policy arrangements are in place to ensure risks are properly managed.				
The staffing level has been increased to reflect the increased attendance and ensure a safe supervision ratio.				
Food contamination	Food poisoning or infection to child	Food type and preparation  Staff Food Hygiene training	2	2

		Health and Safety Policy		
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>				
The provision is limited to lower-risk foods with minimal preparation				
The staff leader for the Breakfast Club has taken Food Hygiene training				

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## 7. Environmental Impact Assessment

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- 7.1 The environmental impact of this project is assessed to be negligible as no additional car journeys are required and the food provided is a necessity. Where possible the waste generated will be recycled or composted.

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## 8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

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- 8.1 As this project is limited to primary school children, it will have neither positive or negative impact in relation to the characteristics of gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership (in employment only) or pregnancy and maternity.
- 8.2 This project has a limited inclusion for age but as barriers to learning addressed by the project are of particular concern to this group and the remit of the school is also limited this is not judged to be an overriding negative impact by excluding other ages.
- 8.3 Any child accessing mainstream schooling, such as Hillside Primary, will be able to access the Breakfast Club, though some disabilities could limit the scope of involvement in the Sports Activities. Where necessary the activities are adapted to be inclusive.

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## 9. Financial Considerations

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Item	Cost
<b>Ongoing cost</b>	
Staffing – Breakfast Club Leader and three other staff	£8,025
Inspire Suffolk Sports Coach	£4,750
Food – milk, bread, butter, cereal, orange juice, squash (£20 per day)	£3,800
Activity equipment and learning resources	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,075</b>
<b>One-off costs</b>	
Chest freezer	£150
(increased volume of perishables requiring storage due to rise in attendance)	£150
Two way radios (to address H&S risks)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£300</b>

- 9.1 For the current school year, the difference between the available budget set before September 2017 and the required budget (approximately £11,000) until the end of the summer term is £7,954.

9.2 The team have secured £500 from County Councillor Jack Abbot's Locality budget and are seeking £5,000 from the South West Area Committee. The remaining £2,454 will be absorbed by the school budget.

9.3 **The amount requested of the South West Area Committee is £5,000**

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## **10. Legal Considerations**

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10.1 The Council has the power to award grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.

10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.

10.3 The Funding Protocol condition of being constituted was met by confirmation of registration with the Department of Education. Evidence of named post holders for the management team and trustees was provided. The bank account registered to the school was verified through the Council's payment system.

10.4 The school supplied the current year projected income and expenditure in place of yearend accounts. A business plan was not supplied, in its place the school offered the projected income and expenditure for the school's budget lines, the projected costs for the Breakfast Club and their plans to meet those costs.

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## **11. Performance Monitoring**

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11.1 Hillside Primary School would be required to complete the Area Committee monitoring report as part of the standard funding agreement. This would include the Breakfast Club expenditure and attendance up to August 2018.

11.2 The Community Engagement Officer and Committee members to visit the Breakfast Club by appointment and report back to the South West Area Committee.

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## **12. Conclusions**

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12.1 Hillside Primary School is seeking funding to support those children from South West Ipswich most in need. The Breakfast Club represents an inclusive activity for the school community and it mitigates some of the disadvantages affecting the children that attend. The positive impact of the free-to-all model has been proven at another Ipswich school. The committee is asked to consider using its resources to help meet a higher than expected demand.

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## **13. Recommendations**

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**13.1 That the South West Area Committee considers the merit of the options for funding set out in section four and decides an option.**

13.2 Reason:

- Free-access to all removes the 'stigma' of attending the Breakfast Club
- The Club provides a safe environment for the children who arrive early at school unaccompanied
- A healthy breakfast means all children can be fed and ready to learn
- Extra-curricular activities to improve fitness.