Dorset Schools' Forum

Date of Meeting:	**6th November 2026**
Report Title:	**SCHOOLS BLOCK DISAPPLICATION REQUESTS IN RESPECT OF EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**
Executive Director:	**Paul Dempsey, Executive Director for People - Children**
Corporate Director:	**Jen Furnell, Director for Education and Learning**
Presenting Officer:	**Vanessa Eddey, Team Manager – Childrens Business & Finance Services**
Report Status:	**Public**
Reason for Submission to Schools' Forum:	**For CONSULTATION** **Under Forum power/responsibility**: 1Consulation on Dis-application for Inadequate Facilities
Recommendation(s):	That the Schools' Forum: 1. Approves the Dis-application for inadequate facilities
Reason for Recommendation(s):	Funding for two schools to cover the costs of inadequate facilities
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	**Schools' Forum members are reminded of their responsibility to make a declaration of interest in any agenda item in which they have an interest, to the Chair or the Clerk, preferably in advance of the meeting.**

1. Executive Summary

1.1 A disapplication request will need to be submitted to the DfE before 16 November 2026 in respect of two Schools Block exceptional funding requests for 2027-28. Funding requests for both schools were agreed by the DfE and the in 2026-27, but it is necessary to reapply each year. Part of the process for agreeing the request involves consultation with the Schools Forum.

1.2 Funding is being requested as follows:

- Cheselbourne Village School does not have a school hall and therefore has inadequate PE facilities. Hiring Cheselbourne Village Hall enables the delivery of PE, especially gymnastics and dance, alongside Move to Learn interventions which supports pupils' fine and gross motor development. It is the only space large enough for all pupils to eat lunch together safely and is also used for assemblies and group events.

  In 2026-27 the rental agreement costs £6,664.57. Other options considered are building a school hall, but there is not enough space on the school site or renting the leisure centre, but this is more expensive.

- The Dorset Studio School serves a predominantly rural community and is co-located with Coastland College (Kingston Maurward site), giving students access to specialist land-based and animal care facilities. A service level agreement is in place to use College facilities, providing students with access to extensive land-based, animal care and outdoor learning facilities, which lead to level 2 qualifications. These facilities support inclusive, practical learning opportunities that engage students with a wide range of learning needs, abilities and aspirations. This curriculum enhances those opportunities by reducing barriers associated with rural isolation, transport limitations and financial disadvantage. Other options are not available to offer this curriculum.

  The charges are £491.59 per month x 12 (5,899.08) for internet and £105,868 divided into 12 monthly payments for access to the estate and facilities – Total £111,767.08. This is the 2025-26 charge as the new contract for 2026-27 has not been received at the time of writing this paper.

1.3 Total amount for the 2 schools is £118,431.65.

1.4 This £118,431.65 disapplication request will reduce the total funding available to other mainstream schools in Dorset in 2027-28. Based on last years Authority Planning Tool (APT), this equates to £2.37 per primary pupil, £3.32 per KS3 pupil and £3.74 per KS4 pupil.

2. Well-being and Health implications

If the opportunities funded by the disapplication requests were not available, this would have a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of students. Both schools are rural and are keen provide inclusion opportunities.

3. Climate Implications

Not applicable

4. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

5. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Cheselbourne School require access to the village hall to give equality of opportunity to access a balanced curriculum and include pupils in wider school life.

The Dorset Studio School's specialist curriculum, has a positive impact on equality of opportunity, particularly for disadvantaged learners, students with SEND and young people who thrive in practical vocational environments. No adverse equality impacts have been identified.

6. Appendices

7. Background Papers

Dedicated Schools Grant: Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Schools Operational Guidance: Schools operational guide: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK

Footnote: Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.