

25 April 2016**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, PROPERTY &
ENVIRONMENT****SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the progress in delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.

Information and Advice

2. The Schools Capital Programme consists of a number of discrete programmes of investment, predominantly:
 - School Places Programme
 - Schools Capital Refurbishment Programme (SCRCP)
 - Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)
 - Schools Access Initiative.
3. The School Places Programme contributes to discharging the statutory duty of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places. It is an on-going annual programme that delivers new schools and/or expansions to existing schools to coincide with the arrival of new cohorts of pupils from September. The programme is funded via government grant (Basic Need Grant) which allocates funding to local authorities on an annual basis as a result of data provided to it about school capacities, Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and projected future demand for places. The programme is supplemented by additional funding from s106 contributions in respect of those places arising from new housing developments.
4. The SCRCP represents a major programme of investment to address the deteriorating condition of schools that is beyond the scope of the Council's annual planned maintenance programme and for which the amount of capital funding delegated directly to individual schools is insufficient to address major items of work. This programme is predominantly funded by the County Council with some funding being provided by government grant (Capital Maintenance Grant).
5. The PSBP is a government funded and managed programme. The current programme provides for whole-school rebuilds, and will provide a total of 13 new school buildings to replace 15 existing school sites by mid 2016.

6. Taken across the period 2012 to 2016/17, the total investment across the Schools Capital Programme amounts to £163m; this has increased since the last report by £1m as a result of the money relating to Early Years being included in the programme. This does not include the value of funding for the Nottinghamshire schools via PSBP which is managed by central government. It is estimated that this would bring the total investment to a figure in excess of £250m.

School Places Programme

7. Following on from the previous report in September 2015, all of the Basic Need 2015 projects have been delivered except for the following:
- Butler's Hill Infant, this project is currently on site and being built
 - College House Junior has been granted planning consent and the work is due to be completed by September 2016
 - Manor Park Infant - construction is ongoing and is programmed for completion in July 2016
 - Jefferies Primary - project was raised as a post September 2015 completion. Construction is ongoing and is programmed for completion in June 2016
 - Ash Lea Special School - project raised as a post September 2015 completion. Scheme now agreed with all parties – the project is a complex one that will see the school decant for 12 months, due to the needs of the children, whilst the extension is carried out. Subject to gaining planning consent, it is anticipated that building work will commence in August 2016.
8. The majority of the funding is being provided by central government, with the Council's funding specifically targeted at the provision of additional places in line with its statutory responsibility for ensuring sufficiency of places across all the schools, irrespective of governance. It is anticipated that the total investment for the 2015 programme will be £14.6m. Within these costs there is an allocation of £3.3 million to complete additional works to support the second phase of projects; these are required to ensure that the Key Stage 2 accommodation is sufficient.
9. The projects making up the Basic Need 2016 programme has been agreed with Children, Families and Cultural Services colleagues. The programme is in design development with eight projects already having been submitted for planning. A list of the projects currently within the Basic Need 2016 programme is listed in **Appendix 1**.

Schools Capital Refurbishment Programme

10. The current SCRP was approved at the meeting of County Council in May 2011. The objective of the Programme is to maintain key elements of the fabric of the schools estate and to address urgent health and safety matters. It focuses on major items of repair and maintenance in relation to the key building elements, i.e. roofs, external elevations, and mechanical and electrical installations. It is driven by information contained in the schools condition survey reports verified by up to date on-site surveys. It will ultimately deliver major refurbishment works at around 260 schools, which is effectively every maintained school in the County that has not been recently rebuilt and/or received significant capital investment through other means.

11. The previous report in September anticipated that all the projects within this programme would be complete by the end of March 2016 with the exception of Chilwell Comprehensive that was delayed due to a PSBP2 bid. Since the last report it has been agreed to slip further projects so that works can be carried out during the holiday period to reduce disruption to the schools. At the time of drafting this report, work has been completed or is substantially complete at over 250 schools. Six schools remain to be completed: Chilwell School, Asquith Primary, Lake View Primary and Orchard Special town site are scheduled to complete over the Easter holiday, Misson Primary in May and St Andrew's CE Primary works are programmed for the summer holiday.
12. The total value of investment in the school estate through the SCRPs is £84m; this is a reduction of £3m in the main due to the release of contingencies held against completed projects. The value of works expended at the time of writing this report was £73m.

Priority Schools Building Programme

13. The PSBP is a central government funded and managed school rebuilding programme. This first round of the programme provides whole-school rebuilds based on a model that triangulates the condition of the fabric of the building, ongoing repairs and maintenance liabilities, and the cost of replacing the building. As previously reported to Committee, the County Council achieved a number of successful bids for this programme to provide 13 new school buildings. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has completed several of the Nottinghamshire schools including: Fountaindale; Holgate Primary; Newark Academy, Wainwright Academy, Serlby Park Academy and Rosebrook Academy. Abbey Primary is programmed for completion in mid April. Five other projects have now commenced on site and it is expected that John Davies Primary will be the next school to be handed over at Easter. The EFA has not yet secured a viable project to replace Lynncroft Primary, the remaining school in the programme. The project is now at risk of being dropped from the programme unless a viable solution can be found. County Council officers are actively working with the EFA to explore alternative solutions to successfully deliver the project.
14. The new schools follow a standardised baseline design developed by the government's Education Funding Agency. Whilst there is no expectation of a funding contribution from the Local Authority for the replacement building, the DfE funding model for construction is very tight and provides only for immediate replacement and not the consequential costs of replacement such as certain planning conditions. The Council has developed and maintained a detailed analysis of its exposure to financial risk arising out of the PSBP with the objective of containing it within the overall quantum of funding available to the Schools Capital Programme. This is currently the case and officers continue to work closely with the EFA to ensure the smooth delivery of the programme in Nottinghamshire. Similarly officers have worked with the EFA to contribute funding to provide 245 additional pupil places at the replacement school where determined necessary; this has provided a cost effective solution to meet the Council's statutory duty.
15. Officers are continuing discussions with the EFA with respect to Orchard Special School within the PSBP2 programme. The current PSBP2 allocation is limited to the replacement of one block. It is the County Council's preference that the whole school be replaced on a single site. Discussions with stakeholders and the EFA with regard to potential funding streams that would achieve this aspiration are ongoing.

Schools Access Initiative

16. The capital implications arising out of this initiative completes the current scope of the Schools Capital Programme. The Schools Access Initiative provides for adaptations to schools in order that the buildings are able to meet the specific needs – in relation to accessibility – of a young person who is seeking a place at that school. The initiative has been in operation for some time and thus an increasing number of schools already have the requisite degree of accessibility. Equally in many cases the scope of the adaptation works are of a scale that does not constitute a formal capital project. Nevertheless, experience shows that there are usually 5-6 more substantial capital projects required per annum. The total anticipated spend on this initiative during 2015/16 is £747,000.

Other Options Considered

17. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial implications

20. Financial provision for the elements that comprise the Schools Capital Programme are reconciled annually as part of the Council's overall budget setting process. The reconciliation takes account of the most recent government grant and other forms of income that contribute to the overall funding of the Programme, against the anticipated actual spend across the range of projects. Realistic assumptions about future sources of external income/grants have been built into the overall financial planning for the Programme, and robust arrangements are in place to monitor these over the course of the Programme.

Human Resource Implications

21. Where schools are expanding, appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from increases in the delegated school budget triggered by the increased number in pupils.

Human Rights Implications

22. The provision of additional school places in refurbished schools will facilitate parental preference via the schools admissions process.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

23. Children within the Local Authority area will be able to access school places locally, all new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.

Safeguarding of children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

24. All new build schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements

Implications for Service Users

25. The Schools Capital Programme seeks to ensure that there will be sufficient school places in school buildings which do not suffer from the need of essential maintenance to their fabric.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

26. Increasing the number of school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All capital projects are subject to the requisite planning and Building Regulations which reflect environmental and sustainability targets. By providing local school places the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the progress in delivering the Schools Capital Programme be noted.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sara Williams
Departmental Services
Property; Environment & Resources
T: 0115 9772359
E: sara.williams@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

27. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SH 31/03/16)

28. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 20 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Schools Capital Programme progress report – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 21 September 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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