



**15 April 2013**

**Agenda Item: 7**

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

### **SCHOOL CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee to progress two specific matters within the existing capital investment programmes for which general approval has previously been granted by the County Council on 28 February 2013. The two matters are:
  - to submit a bid to DfE to access additional funding that has been made available to local authorities through the Targeted Basic Need Programme
  - to consult with staff, pupils, governors, parents and wider community at Fountaindale School on a proposed expansion of places at the school from 60 to 75 places through the investment planned at the school via the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme. As this represents a 25% increase in places, it is subject to this statutory process under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The fulfilment of this duty is described as meeting Basic Need. Officers analyse projected pupil numbers over future years to identify schools that are best suited to fulfil the Basic Need requirement. At its meeting on 11 March 2013, the Committee agreed to increase places at a number of schools from September 2014, in line with the demand demonstrated through this process.
3. In March 2013, the DfE also launched the new Targeted Basic Need Programme, through which local authorities can bid for additional capital to fund the provision of new school places that will become available from September 2014 or September 2015. The bidding criteria assume that the funding will be used to increase diversity of governance through the establishment of new academies and free schools, or to permanently expand existing good and outstanding academies and maintained schools.
4. All local authorities can apply for the funding but those with "significant proportionate levels of Basic Need" are encouraged to apply for the programme. It is considered that a bid for additional funding for additional places from September 2014 would not meet these criteria but that there is merit in pursuing further the option to bid for funding for

additional places for 2015, particularly since the projections of future pupil numbers have been refreshed since work began to identify the list of school expansions that were approved by the Committee at its meeting in March 2013. Moreover, the overall level of capital funding confirmed by Government for the period 2013-15 to provide additional school places and to improve the condition of existing buildings is lower than anticipated.

5. The deadline for receipt of bids is 30 April 2013 and approval is sought from Committee to submit a bid. The DfE expects to inform local authorities of the outcome of applications by 30 June 2013. Feedback will be provided to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.
6. At its meeting on 11 March, the Committee also gave its approval to commence the statutory consultation process under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in relation to schools that are proposed to increase places by 25% or more through the Basic Need programme.
7. Fountaindale School is also earmarked to expand by the 25%, via the whole school rebuild funded through the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). Confirmation of the capacity of the new school (75 pupil places) has recently been agreed following feasibility studies that have also confirmed the level of funding for the project. At the same time, the DfE has confirmed the requirement to follow the same statutory consultation process as that for the expansion of mainstream schools. Approval is therefore sought to commence this process in order to maintain the planned timetable within the PSBP for the rebuild of Fountaindale School.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. Projected demand for school places indicate that there will continue to be pressure on school places that a successful bid for Targeted Basic Need funding will help to alleviate.
10. There is a statutory requirement on local authorities to consult in instances where it is proposed to expand the number of places at a school by 25% or more.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the submission of a bid for funding through the new Targeted Basic Need Programme
- 2) approves consultation to increase the number of places at Fountaindale School by 25%, as required under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006
- 3) receives a report on the outcome of the above consultation with recommendations for action.

**Anthony May**  
**Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 28/03/13)**

12. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (KLA 28/03/13)**

13. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

### **Background Papers**

Capital Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17 – report to County Council on 28 February 2013  
School Capital Programme to meet Basic Need 2014/15 – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 11 March 2013.

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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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