

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Agenda Item: 12**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**

### **SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT AND 2021/22 SCHOOLS BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (SBIP)**

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

1. To provide a progress report to Committee on the successes of delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.
2. To present the projects identified as priorities for the 2021/22 Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP) and to seek approval to progress the projects to the feasibility stage.

#### **Information**

3. The Council receives annual School Capital Grant from Government comprising a number of funding streams including the Basic Need Grant and the Schools Condition Allocation. The Council discharges its duties pertaining to these allocations and provides capital improvements through its Schools Capital Programme, consisting of discrete programmes of investment, predominantly:
  - School Places Programme
  - Schools Building Improvement Programme
  - Schools Access Initiative.

#### **School Places Programme**

4. 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.
5. 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, the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and the 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.

6. Examples of recent completions of the School Places Programme are as follows:

- **Newark Orchard School Replacement.** The purpose of this project was to construct a 140 place special school on one site and taking account of the specific needs of the pupils attending. The building boasts a full range of spacious classrooms and specialist learning environments, including a Hub specifically for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and a hydrotherapy pool.
- **Rosecliffe Spencer Academy** new school. The purpose of this project was to construct a 135 place primary school with a 26 place nursery. As the data shows that this is an area of potential growth in the population, the school is capable of a future expansion to 420 places.
- **The Basic Need Expansion Programme** for 2019/20 has also had a number of successes, notably King Edwin Primary, Edwinstowe, where a classroom extension has been added in order to provide much needed additional learning space due to an old mobile classroom needing replacement. Lady Bay Primary now has a refurbished mobile classroom for their Foundation pupils, together with an improved outdoor learning environment. At Lambley Primary School the Council has delivered an extra modular classroom, due to an increase in pupil numbers in the area and this will provide an extra 56 places over the next seven years. This includes a hygiene suite with hoist for a pupil with particular needs who has recently started at the school.
- **Commissioning Monitoring Projects.** There have been a number of academies who require expansions in order to increase the number of pupil places they need to provide. Through Grant Funding Agreements some have successfully applied for grants from the County Council and the academies engage their own architects and building contractors to deliver the projects. Through Arc Partnership the Council then provides a monitoring role to ensure that what is provided is compliant and meets the necessary building regulations. Recently Carlton Academy has completed the building of 10 additional teaching spaces, toilet and changing facilities, along with specialist Technology areas. This was done to increase the PAN (Published Admission Number) of 230 Year 7 pupils. Carlton le Willows has recently completed the building of an Enhanced Provision Unit in the form of a single storey pavilion which takes advantage of the tranquil setting of its surroundings. Magnus C of E Academy's project has provided a full refurbishment spanning two floors of the Warburton building. This includes the creation of food technology teaching spaces.

### **Schools Access Initiative and CYPS Academy Access Initiative**

7. The Council's Schools Access Initiative (SAI) provides for adaptations to County Council maintained schools to ensure that pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) can access education alongside and equal to their non-disabled peers. It enables them to obtain skills and qualifications necessary to enter further education and the job market on an equal basis to their peers. It also ensures that the Council and schools

meet their legal duties under the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty. The funding for the SAI is top sliced from the Schools Condition Allocation.

8. The Council is required by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide adaptations to Academies where the pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP); this is provided by the Council's Academies Access Initiative (AAI). For recent adaptations funding has been provided from the special schools grant allocation.
9. Over the last 12 months there have been 18 completed projects meeting the access needs of 70 children with SEND. These projects include:
  - **Southwell Minster:** This school has been adapted for two visually impaired pupils, one of whom has no vision. The scheme consists of tactile guidance routes, tactile warnings at the top and bottom of stairs and a blue tooth beacon guidance system that links to a mobile phone app.
  - **Lantern Lane Primary School.** This scheme was carried out for 34 pupils with conditions ranging from Autism, ADHD, SEMH to hearing impairments. The school was open plan and as such the teaching environment was very challenging for pupils with hearing impairments and sensory conditions as well as other pupils and staff. The scheme created separate acoustically treated classrooms and teaching spaces.
  - **Garibaldi School.** This project was to make the secondary school UV safe for a pupil with an extremely rare skin condition who gets skin cancer if their skin is exposed to UV light. The pupil is one of only a handful of people in the UK with this condition and has a rare version of the condition.
  - **Priestsic Primary School.** This project was to provide a hygiene suite for eight children with SEND. The only way this could be built was to demolish an old and inadequate portacabin staff room, which partially blocked a fire escape from the Hall. The new extension provided a hygiene suite, new staff room and removed the issue with the fire escape.

### **Schools Building Improvement Programme**

10. The County Council receives an annual Schools Condition Allocation from the DfE, provided for capital improvements for the maintained school estate.
11. The SBIP delivers improvements across several workstreams, focusing on Health & Safety and maintenance issues which are most likely to result in a school closure if not addressed. The workstreams are as follows:
  - **Boiler & Heating Pipework Replacement:** Replacement of boiler and or associated heating pipework. Pipework replacement predominantly affects Victorian and turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century sites where the ageing heating pipework would not withstand the operating pressure of modern boiler installations.
  - **Drainage Works:** to address issues causing flooding, standing water or blockage to the foul drains.

- **Roof Replacement:** where a roof is beyond economic repair or the state of repair can become a risk through the possibility of falling slates or could result in major infrastructure damage particularly from water ingress and leaks.
  - **Kitchen Ventilation improvements:** Building Regulations require increased levels of ventilation where kitchens are improved or replaced and gas appliances are changed. This programme will provide new mechanical ventilation installations where appropriate, although a move to replacement with electrical appliances is first considered, as where possible this removes the ventilation issues arising from the gas appliances.
  - **Compliance Matters:** Particularly in relation to fire safety and water quality. The work stream focuses predominantly on the upgrade and replacement of fire alarms systems, and plumbing works to engineer out risk and provide safer water systems.
  - **Safeguarding:** Some historic school sites lack modern security and access control systems which ensure the safety of pupils and staff. This programme aims to rectify any identified safeguarding concerns.
  - **Structural and building fabric Issues:** structural works required to maintain the integrity of the building envelope including windows and doors.
12. All construction projects for the 2020/21 programme, agreed at Policy Committee in July 2020, have now been raised and are programmed to be completed over the next 18 months, dependent on the complexity of the projects.
13. Over the last 12 months 26 projects have been successfully completed on site. Examples of recently completed projects are:
- **Lady Bay Primary Boiler Replacement** - the existing boiler was estimated to be at least 17 years old and nearing the end of the boiler's expected economic life and it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain appropriate parts for repairs. The project approach was to replace the existing boilers with a new more energy efficient boiler plant, incorporating condensing gas boiler and a new pressurisation unit, and thus providing a long-term benefit to the school in terms of reliability and cost saving.
  - **The Lanes Primary Structural works to Canopy** - it was discovered that the concrete and asbestos canopy at this school was degrading and if left unattended would become structurally unsafe. The project included removing the canopy, forming new gutters and renewing parts of the roof covering. This also gave the opportunity to inspect the concealed construction steels and repair or treat any metal that was corroded. The project was carried out over phases as to minimise disruption to the school and was completed in time for the new academic year.
  - **Derrymount School Heating Cabinets** - a heating replacement project has been completed at both the Lower and Upper buildings at Derrymount School. Due to the nature of the school, further thought was given to find a solution that not only improved the heating in school but also reduced to potential for injury to pupils or damage to the heating system. The following approach was adopted: new protected low surface

temperature radiators (LST) with internal thermostats designed specifically for application in SEN Schools have replaced the existing LST radiators which were accessible to the students. New ceiling grid fan convectors mounted in the ceiling in the halls have replaced floor mounted fan convectors reducing the potential for tamper opportunities and increasing the air distribution.

- **Bispham Drive Junior School Drainage** - a drainage project has been completed to alleviate flooding from the school. Water was backing up through the grates in the play areas which made the areas not suitable for use. A completely new drain was put in around the edge of the school to replace the old drain which ran underneath the school, providing a much improved drainage solution which is also far easier to maintain in future.

## **2021/22 Additions to the SBIP Programme**

14. With a significant back-log of maintenance and improvement works required across the school estate it is necessary to prioritise the works that can be undertaken.
15. Stock condition surveys have been conducted across the school estate over the last five years. These condition reports form the basis of the prioritisation. Recommendations from other property records are also assessed and scrutinised, particularly site risk assessments (including water quality, fire safety and asbestos management). On-site issues and requests from schools are also taken into account.
16. The 2021/22 Schools Condition Allocation grant has yet to be announced. Confirmation is expected in April 2021. For the purposes of project planning the programme is working to the reasonable estimate of £5m in line with allocations for previous years. Should the allocation be significantly different to the expected a revised programme report will be brought to Committee.
17. Projects with a total value of circa £5M have been identified for the 2021/22 additions to the SPIB Programme. This is merely an initial estimate of cost and more robust estimates of the costs will be achieved through the feasibility stage if the final estimates of the cost exceed the available funding then it will be necessary to defer projects to the 2022/23 Programme. As well as available funding, decisions on the projects to be included have been made based on the urgency of the works required and assessment of the risk.
18. A Latest Estimated Cost (LEC) report will be brought to Committee in Spring 2021 once the feasibility projects have been concluded, establishing the full costs for the 2021/22 programme before proceeding to the construction phase of the projects
19. Due to the urgent nature of some of the works certain projects have already been raised to ensure the required works can be undertaken as soon as possible.
20. A full list of the projects to be included in the 2021/22 programme is provided in **Appendix 1**.

## **Other Options Considered**

21. The County Council has an obligation to provide adequate spaces for pupils requiring education to maintain its property portfolio, ensuring they are safe, compliant and fit for purpose. Therefore, no other options have been considered.

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

22. The Council is committed to providing good schools with sufficient places for all Nottinghamshire children. The Schools Capital Programme is a key element of delivering this commitment.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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**

24. 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 Resources Implications**

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

## **Human Rights Implications**

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

## **Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

27. 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, for pupils, teachers and members of the public/visitors. Adaptations will be carried out to existing Council schools and academies to meet the access needs of children with SEND.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

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

## **Implications for Service Users**

29. 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**

30. 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**

That Committee:

- 1) considers the successes and progress that has been made in delivering the Schools Capital Programme.
- 2) approves the projects for addition to the Schools Building Improvement Programme for 2021/22 and approves the commencement of the project feasibility stage.

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## **Constitutional Comments (AK 16/11/20)**

31. The report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (GB 19/11/20)**

32. The programmes set out in this report are all within the approved capital programme as follows – School Place Programme £12.1m in 2020/21 (£12.8m in 2021/22), School Building Improvement Programme £7.9m in 2020/21 (£5.2m in 2021/22) and the School Access Initiative £0.5m in 2020/21 (£0.1m in 2021/22).'

## **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 Building Improvement Programme – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 11 February 2019](#)

[Schools Capital Programme progress report – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 18 November 2019](#)

[2021/22 Schools Building Improvement Programme \(SBIP\) Latest Estimated Cost \(LEC\) - report to Policy Committee on 15 July 2020](#)

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

All.

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