

11 March 2013**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES &
CULTURAL SERVICES, AND THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT,
PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT****SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO MEET BASIC NEED 2014/15****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval to increase the number of primary school places available for September 2014, in line with demand demonstrated by Basic Need, and to meet the DfE recommendation of 5% unfilled places to support parental preference.
2. This report also seeks the approval of the Committee to consult with staff, pupils, governors, parents and communities of the schools hereafter listed to expand their respective rolls.

Information and Advice

3. The Council's Capital Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17 was approved by the County Council on 28 February 2013. A key element of the Capital Strategy is the provision of accommodation to meet Basic Need of school places, including the replacement of mobiles

Basic Need

4. The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. This applies to sufficiency planning across all schools, including academies. It is expected that local authorities will work closely with academies and the voluntary aided sector to meet this statutory responsibility and function. The fulfilment of this duty is described as meeting Basic Need. Children, Families and Cultural Services analyse the pupil projection data available to identify schools which would be best suited to fulfil the Basic Need requirement and secure diversity of provision and increase the opportunity for parental preference.
5. The previous Basic Need programme totalling £19.6 million over the period 2012/13 to 2015/16 was approved within the CYPS capital programme. Due to the continuing significant pressures on school places, caused by rising birth rates and parental choice, there is a need to extend the programme to ensure that Nottinghamshire schools have sufficient capacity. Additional funding of £10.5 million has now been agreed, funded from contingency (£5.5 million) and reserves (£5.0 million). The budget has been rephased as follows:-

2012/13	£2.6million
2013/14	£14.1million
2014/15	£8.9million
2015/16	£2.5million
2016/17	£2.0million
Total	£30.1million

6. Research is regularly undertaken by officers within the Support to Schools Service to identify the demand for places across the Authority. Planning is undertaken at a specific school level, as well as across families of schools and local communities. Planning follows the accepted methodology for projecting pupil demand against existing school places, taking account of location issues, increases in the birth rate, population mobility, trends in parental preference and planning approval for new housing. Officers have engaged with schools within their areas where appropriate.
7. The outcome of this process is to provide an annual Basic Need programme listing schools where expansion is necessary to meet the demand for places.
8. The proposed Basic Need programme for 2014/15 has recently been finalised and comprises the schools listed in the table below. Schools are aware of the need for expansion and have been part of a dialogue around the demand for additional provision. Governors will receive further information in the Summer term about the nature of the specific projects for their school. Officers will work with headteachers around school organisation and admissions matters.

School	Additional Places	Increase in Capacity	
Arnold View Primary (Arnold)	30	12.5%	
Beardall Street Primary (Hucknall)	105	50%	Replacement and Phase1 expanded school
Bramcote Hills Primary (Bramcote)	60	20%	
Chuter Ede Primary (Balderton)	90	16%	Phase 2 Fernwood annexe
Coppice Farm Primary (Arnold)	30	24%	
Edgewood Primary (Hucknall)	30	12.5%	
Forest Town Primary (Mansfield)	120	43%	
Hawthorne Primary (Bestwood)	30	20%	
Holly Primary (Forest Town)	30	10%	
John Clifford Primary (Beeston)	60	18%	

School	Additional Places	Increase in Capacity	
Newstead Primary (Newstead)	30	23%	
Pierrepont Gamston Primary (West Bridgford)	105	50%	
Round Hill Primary (Beeston)	90	25%	
The Holgate School (Hucknall)	-		Accommodation to meet S106 funding

9. Some schools in the above table are projected to have an increase of school places of 25% or more, and as such will be subject to the statutory process under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Committee is asked to approve the recommendation that this process begins as soon as possible to guarantee statutory approval in time for the September intake in 2014. There are only four schools where this is the case, one of which is a voluntary aided school and the Local Authority will be working in partnership with the relevant diocese and governing bodies to undertake the statutory process.
10. As explained earlier in the report Basic Need pressures are reviewed annually to ensure that the latest available data is used to support decision making. Whilst it is recognised that there will be further pressure on school places in 2015/16, the list of potential projects will not be finalised until January 2014.

Other Options Considered

11. Officers in the Support to Schools Service have established where and when the pupil demand is located and have made recommendations to expand the schools listed above in keeping with the Basic Need criteria as recommended by the DfE and used by all other local authorities to deliver this statutory responsibility.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. Projected demand for school places indicate that without investment in additional school places at the locations identified there will be a shortfall in school places. The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

Implications for Service Users

14. There will be sufficient school places for children living within the Local Authority area.
15. The DfE recommended 5% provision for the exercise of parental choice will be met.

Financial Implications

16. Option appraisals are currently being developed to provide indicative costs in relation to the Basic Need projects identified for 2014/15.
17. A revised budget was taken to County Council for approval on 28 February 2013 as part of the 2013/14 to 2016/17 Capital Programme proposals. This incorporates £10.5 million of pressures to enable the delivery of projects described in this report. If as a result of option appraisals the values differ from the approved budget, a further report will be taken to Members to agree a revised programme.

Equality Implications

18. 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.

Human Rights Implications

19. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

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

Human Resources Implications

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

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

22. Increasing the number of school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All new projects will require planning consent and will meet Building Regulations which reflect environmental and sustainability targets. By providing local school places the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 1) agrees to increase the number of primary school places available for September 2014, in line with demand demonstrated by Basic Need, and to meet the DfE recommendation of 5% unfilled places to support parental preference by working with all schools listed to consider options for development

- 2) approves consultation to increase the number of school places by 25% or more, as required under Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act; with staff, governors, parents/carers and other interested parties of the following schools:
- Beardall Street Primary
 - Forest Town Primary
 - Round Hill Primary
 - Pierrepont Gamston VA Primary
- 3) receives a further report on the outcome of the above consultation with recommendations for action.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 21/02/13)

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

Financial Comments (KLA 21/02/13)

24. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 16 & 17 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

School Capital Strategy 2011/12 to 2013/14 – report to County Council on 19 May 2011
Capital Programme Proposals 2013/14 to 2016/17 – report to Policy Committee on 13 February 2013
Capital Programme Proposals 2013/14 to 2016/17 - report to County Council on 28 February 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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