

18th November 2019

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides a progress update on delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.
2. The report seeks approval for the approach to identifying projects for the Schools Building Improvement programme.
3. The report also seeks approval to forward fund feasibility projects for Section 106 funded school projects from the School Places Programme budget.

Information

4. The Schools Capital Programme consists of a number of discrete programmes of investment, predominantly:
 - the School Places Programme
 - the Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP)
 - the Schools Access Initiative.
5. The School Places Programme contributes to discharging the statutory duty of the Council to provide sufficient school places. It is an ongoing annual programme that delivers new schools and/or expansions to existing schools to coincide with the arrival of new cohorts of pupils from each 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 the projected future demand for places. The Programme is supplemented by additional funding from 'Section 106' developer contributions in respect of those places arising from new housing developments.
6. The Council also delivers an annual Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP) utilising School Condition Allocation funding from the Department for Education (DfE), allocated for the improvement and maintenance of the schools estate.

7. The Council's Schools Access Initiative (SAI) provides for adaptations to schools so that the schools and the Council can properly support school access for pupils with disabilities. The funding for the SAI is top sliced from the SBIP allocation.

School Places Programme

8. Funding is targeted at maintaining or providing additional places to ensure sufficiency of places across all the schools, irrespective of governance.
9. Feasibility and options work are currently being considered for the following projects:
 - Lambley Primary School – due to an increase in demand for pupil places in this area, an additional modular classroom has been planned. A planning application will be submitted following a consultation with parents regarding staggering the school hours
 - East Markham Primary School – this project is to provide an extra classroom, hall and kitchen facilities to this over-subscribed school. A planning application has been submitted
 - Lady Bay Primary, West Bridgford – a feasibility project is ongoing, scoping a project to replace the temporary mobile classroom with a permanent or modular solution
 - King Edwin Primary, Edwinstowe – a project to replace the mobile classroom with a permanent solution, feasibility is now complete. A Latest Estimated Cost (LEC) report presented to Committee in October 2019 approved commencement of the construction project
 - All Saints Infant, Huthwaite – a feasibility project is ongoing to investigate options for school expansion to accommodate an increased Published Admission Number.
10. The following schools both had new permanent modular buildings to replace old temporary mobile classrooms and they were handed over at the end of August 2019, in time for the start of the new academic year:
 - Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School, Southwell
 - Sutton Bonington Primary School
11. In terms of new schools:
 - the replacement Hawthorne Primary School in Bestwood Village successfully opened in September 2019
 - the new Flying High Academy on the Rolls Royce site in Hucknall successfully opened in September 2019
 - the replacement Newark Orchard Special School is progressing well. The replacement School is set to open in Spring 2020

- construction on the new school on the Sharphill development in Edwalton commenced in October 2019, for opening in September 2020.
12. The need for a number of Section 106 developer contribution funded inclusions into the School Places Programme has arisen during the current financial year. As such, it is requested that forward funding from the School Places Programme be approved for the following feasibility design works, sufficient to provide latest estimated cost reports and seek planning consent. The forward funding is required until such point that Section 106 contributions are received by the Council.
- St Luke's C of E Primary School, Shireoaks – a feasibility project to investigate a new classroom to accommodate pupils from a new housing development. Land is to be transferred from the developer to increase the outdoor provision at the school. The land is to be transferred imminently and plans are to fence and secure against unauthorised use
 - Nettleworth Infant School, Mansfield Woodhouse – the project is to explore the internal reconfiguration of school buildings to increase PAN
 - Leas Park Junior School, Mansfield Woodhouse – the project is to explore the internal reconfiguration of school buildings to increase PAN
 - New Primary School at Bingham, Chapel Lane Development – the project is to explore the provision of a new school at the Chapel Lane development in Bingham
 - Additional places arising from the development at the former RAF Newton site, near Bingham – the project is to explore the provision of additional places at the existing school or a new site
 - New Primary School, East Leake – the project is to explore the provision of a new school at the Kirk Ley Road and Rempstone Road developments in East Leake.

Secondary Provision

13. Approval was granted at Policy Committee in May 2019 to enter into a funding agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide up to £2.9M of Basic Need funding which the Trust will use to provide an additional 300 places at the Carlton Academy, providing much needed places within the Carlton area of Gedling.
14. The Council continues to work with Spencer Academy Trust to review their current plans to expand Rushcliffe School in West Bridgford to 12 form entry and to agree the principle of using Basic Need funding to deliver the additional places.
15. The Council has commenced investigations to identify land within the West Bridgford planning area that could accommodate a new secondary school.

Schools Building Improvement Programme

16. Since the Schools Building Improvement Programme commenced in 2016 there have been 144 construction projects all preceded by feasibility projects determining the best solution

and engineering value for money. There are currently 22 projects on site with a further 43 projects in the design process.

17. The additions to the SBIP programme for 2019/20 allocation were approved by the Children and Young People's Committee in February 2019, with subsequent approval of the programme's Latest Estimated Costs by Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee in May 2019.
18. The Council's Schools Building Improvement Programme focuses on building attributes which present the greatest risk of school closure. To date five work streams have been pursued in this regard: boilers and heating pipework, heating cabinets, drainage, roofing and kitchen ventilation.
19. For the identification of projects for the 2020/21 allocation alongside these work streams it is proposed to include three additional work streams: compliance, structural matters and safeguarding.
 - **Compliance:** particularly in relation to fire safety and water quality, the work stream will focus predominantly on the upgrade and replacement of fire alarm systems and plumbing works to engineer out risk and provide safer water systems
 - **Safeguarding:** the Council is aware that there are issues with controlling public access to some school buildings. These works will address that risk
 - **Structural Issues:** structural works required to maintain the integrity of the school building envelopes.

Schools Access Initiative

20. The Schools Access Initiative provides for adaptations so that the schools and the Council can meet their statutory and legal duties under the Equality Act, the Public Sector Equality Duty, the Children and Families Act, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, School Premises Regulations and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The works provide access to schools and curriculum to meet the needs of specific young people with disabilities, who are either at school or seeking a place at school.
21. The initiative has been in operation for some time and so an increasing number of schools have already had adaptations. Nationally there has been a rise in the number of children identified with significant physical, sensory, learning and behavioural disabilities, so the demand is constant. In many cases the scope of the adaption 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 each year.
22. This programme of work safeguards the Council against expensive costs if the pupil's catchment school is not adapted, such as transport to another school, or paying for the pupil to be schooled elsewhere. The work carried out futureproofs the schools for pupils with disabilities but also provides better access for staff and visitors and some improvements, such as acoustics, have a benefit to all pupils and staff.

23. Projects in 2019/20 include the provision of 2 hygiene suites; 5 ramps; 2 sensory/calming rooms; 1 project to secure a site to prevent an autistic pupil absconding; 3 projects to improve acoustics for deaf pupils; 3 pupil toilet adaptations; 3 projects to provide/improve access doors; 2 handrail projects; and 1 automatic wash/dry toilet.
24. Further potential projects at feasibility include 1 automatic wash/dry toilet; 1 platform lift; 5 ramps; 1 sensory/calming rooms; 1 dropped kerb/blue badge parking; 2 projects to secure the site to prevent pupils with autism etc. absconding; 2 projects to provide a UV safe environment for pupils; and 2 projects for pupils with no sight.

Other Options Considered

25. The County Council has an obligation to provide adequate spaces for pupils requiring education within the County. There are therefore no other options available to the County Council at this time.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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.
29. For the six Section 106 projects, forward funding from the School Places Programme of circa £300,000 will be required.

Human Rights Implications

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

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

31. Children within the Council's area will be able to access school places locally, and all new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

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

Implications for Service Users

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

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

34. 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 progress being made in delivering the Schools Capital Programme and identifies any further issues that they wish to be considered.
- 2) approves the approach to identifying projects for the Schools Building Improvement Programme
- 3) approves the forward funding of the feasibility for the Section 106 school projects from the School Places Programme budget.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Phil Berrill
Team Manager, Property Commissioning
T: 0115 9774641
E: phil.berrill@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (AK 16/10/19)

35. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 18/10/19)

36. The capital budget for all of the lines referred to in this report are already approved within the Children and Young People's capital programme. The budgets that are currently available in 2019/20 and 2020/21 for these projects are as follows – School Places Programme (£26.3m), School Building Improvement Programme (£16.3m), School Access Initiative (£0.5m), Replacement Bestwood School (£3.1m), Watnall Road New School (£2.1m), Orchard Special School (£13.9m) and the new Sharphill School (£8.6m). Capital variations will need to be requested through the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee however for any new Section 106 funded projects that come into the programme.

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.

[Basic Need School Expansion: King Edwin Primary, Edwinstowe – Latest Estimated Cost – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 14th October 2019](#)

[Schools Building Improvement Programme – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019](#)

[Schools Capital Programme Progress report - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 20th May 2019](#)

[Latest Estimated Cost Report: Schools Building Improvement Programme 2018/19 and 2019/20 – report to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee on 20th May 2019](#)

[Basic Need allocation for the Carlton Academy \(The Redhill Academy Trust\) – report to Policy Committee on 22nd May 2019](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1307