

Cabinet

22 November 2012

People Group, Learning and Achievement Capital Programme

2012-2013

Additional proposals

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the additions to Learning and Achievement capital programme set out in Appendix A and detailed in section 2.
- 2) Recommend to Council that a grant of £3,139,949 received from DfE for the provision of additional school places is allocated for this purpose

1.0 Key issues

- 1.1 This paper recommends proposals for inclusion in the Learning and Achievement Capital Programme. This paper does not include any proposals for schools which have acquired or are seeking to acquire Academy status
- 1.2 At its meeting of 24 May Cabinet approved a programme of works to a value of £15,235,000. That report also identified that a further paper would be brought setting out proposals for additional projects to utilise the balance of unallocated resources.
- 1.3 This report makes recommendations to allocate resources to address deficits in school accommodation; replace a number of temporary classrooms and address an urgent health and safety issue at a Primary School.
- 1.4 Proposals have been prioritised having regard to the following criteria: - urgent health and safety issues; Basic Need (too few school places); deficits in accommodation (inability or impediments to delivering an aspect or aspects of the curriculum); disabled access; backlog of repair; raising levels of attainment.
- 1.5 Section 4 of this report identifies future pressure on the provision of school places and places for children and young people with additional educational needs.
- 1.6 Background to some of the issues raised in this report is provided in appendix B.

2.0 Available Resources

- 2.1 After the Cabinet report of 24 May was approved the schools capital programme had £6.133 million of resources yet to be allocated to specific projects. Since this time additional net resources of £3.710 million have been identified, bringing the total of currently available resources to £9.843 million. The proposed allocations of £5.595 million outlined in Section 3 of the report reduce the unallocated resources to £4.248 million.
- 2.2 In June 2012 the authority received notice of a further allocation of Basic Need funding of £3,139,949. This is a non-ring fenced grant given for the purposes of additional school places but available to the Council for other uses. This report seeks a recommendation from Cabinet to Council that the sum of £3,139,949 be allocated to People Group to help meet the cost of future education needs set out in Section 4 below. This will increase the total available and unallocated resources to £7.388 million.
- 2.3 Details of currently available capital funding and proposed expenditure are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 In addition to these resources it is expected the authority will receive further capital grants towards meeting the authority's education needs. However, it is not expected that any future allocations will be announced in advance of the Local government Finance Settlement in mid-December.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 This section outlines the specific proposals for which approval is sought across the three areas of:
- Basic need and sufficiency
 - Health and safety, and
 - Backlogs of repairs

3.2 Basic Need and Sufficiency

3.3 Expansion of Coten End Primary School Warwick

There is a need to further expand provision in Warwick Town to meet an increased demand for primary school places. It is forecast that a further one form of entry will be required by September 2014. People Group intends to undertake a consultation exercise on a proposal to expand Coten End Primary School. This will be the subject of a further report.

It is proposed to allocate £2.8 million for this purpose.

3.4 Barford, St Peters CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Barford St Peters has a planned admission number of 20 which indicates a capacity of 140 pupils in years R – 6; the school also provides a pre-school setting. The school currently mixes across all age groups and key stages and teaches Nursery and reception age children in the same space.

The current building does not have capacity to accommodate 140 pupils; there are currently only 4 classrooms, a fifth is required. It is therefore proposed to extend the school to provide a further classroom.

The cost of this proposal (based on tenders received by Diocesan Board of Education) is £230,000

3.5 Budbrooke Primary School, Warwick

Budbrooke is a 315 place (1 ½ Forms of entry) Primary School and currently operates with 10 classroom spaces. A school of 315 pupils requires 11 classroom spaces to allow it to organise with 30 or fewer pupils in each space. It is therefore proposed to extend the building to provide an additional classroom, available from September 2013. As part of these works it will be necessary to extend the existing corridor access and cloaks areas and to provide an additional classbase.

The estimated cost of this work is £350,000

3.6 The Ferncumbe Primary School, Hatton

The Ferncumbe has a planned admission number of 17 which indicates a capacity of 119 pupils. At May 2012 there were 128 pupils on roll with 4 of the 7 years groups oversubscribed. Forecasts are that the school will admit around 20 pupils per year.

The school currently has 4 classrooms but will require 5 to accommodate the predicted growth in pupil numbers. It is therefore proposed to provide an additional classroom, available from September 2013.

The estimated cost of this proposal is £250,000.

3.7 Kingsbury Secondary School

Until recently Kingsbury School made use of a local community hall to supplement its on-site PE provision and to ensure that during examination periods when the school halls were being used, the school could still deliver a varied PE curriculum. Following the Youth Service Review, the lease on the community hall was surrendered and the space is no longer available to the school. There are now insufficient large spaces to deliver the PE curriculum, particularly during examination periods.

The school has approached the authority for support with a proposal to erect a modular, pre-fabricated, gymnasium space which it proposes to locate next to the (on site) community swimming pool to extend the offer to pupils, other local schools and the wider community.

The additional space will enhance opportunities for sport and recreation in the area and will ensure that the school can continue to provide a more varied PE offer and continue to do so during examination periods when the school halls and gymnasium are being otherwise used.

The estimated cost of the schools proposal is £350,000; the school has raised £100,000 and is seeking £250,000 of support from the authority.

It is therefore proposed to allocate £250,000 to support this scheme.

3.8 Wembrook Primary School, Additional Hall

Wembrook is a three form entry primary school with capacity for 630 pupils. The authority has recently provided an additional classroom at the school to allow the school to organise with groups of no more than 30 pupils.

The school has a single hall space which is not large enough to safely accommodate a whole school assembly. The hall provides PE space for 21 class groups as well as supporting a range of other activities. Dining also takes place in the hall which is carried out in three sittings and means that, with setting up and clearing away each day, the hall is not available for other activities immediately before and after lunch.

The Fire Officer recently advised that numbers of persons using the hall at any one time should be reduced; the impacts of a lower capacity would be to increase the number of sittings required to manage lunch break and further reduce the availability of the hall for other activity.

It is proposed to provide a second PE / hall space, linked to the existing hall to provide additional capacity at lunch time and allow the school to timetable PE and other uses more easily.

It is proposed to allocate £425,000 to provide an additional studio hall.

3.9 Quinton Primary School, Quinton

Quinton primary has capacity for 115 pupils and currently has 96 pupils on roll.

The school has admitted over 20 pupils into the Reception class in each of the last 2 years and is forecast to continue to do so. Based on the current cohort there is an immediate need to expand the school by at least one classroom for September 2013; based on forecasts of pupil numbers, capacity of the school will need to increase to one-form of entry by September 2014.

It is likely that, beyond the currently proposed expansion, the school will need to be expanded again as a result of proposed housing development in the area. This will be the subject of further reports.

The proposal is that the school be expanded from a half-form of entry to one-form of entry which, subject to an agreed design, is likely to require the provision of three additional classrooms. To meet the current at least one additional space should be available from September 2013.

The estimated cost of this proposal is £1.25 million.

3.10 Urgent Health and Safety

3.11 St Giles Primary School, Bedworth

St Giles School has a single car width access road and inadequate parking for the numbers of staff working at the school. Vehicles park on the grass verges and landscaped areas.

The school is served by a single pedestrian access immediately adjacent the vehicle gates. Vehicles using the access road cannot pass each other but must either reverse along the length of the road or mount the footpath. There is no adequate separation between pedestrians and vehicles. The situation outside the school gate is equally difficult with cars queuing and turning across the pedestrian access; the school has taken advice from the local police and has issued advice to parents and carers. Staff cannot park on the adjacent roads without causing an obstruction or nuisance.

It is proposed to relocate and expand parking to create a turning and passing area and to provide pedestrian guardrails between the existing footpath and road.

The cost of this work is estimated at £40,000.

3.12 Backlog of repair

3.13 Various Schools, temporary classroom replacements

At its meeting of 24 May Cabinet agreed to establish a programme of temporary classroom replacements. It was proposed that the programme would cost in the order of £3million and that an initial phase to the value of £1.5 million be carried out and that a further report would identify how the balance of £1.5million would be allocated.

The following sets out proposals to be funded from the balance of £1.5 million approved in the May report.

The following schools each have a single temporary building being used as a classroom. It is proposed to provide a new permanent class base at each school at an estimated total cost of £1million. Notionally each proposal will cost in the order of £250,000 subject to agreeing a satisfactory scheme at each school.

- Tysoe CE Primary School
- Water Orton Primary School
- Telford Infant School
- Telford Junior School

These schools were selected by identifying all schools with temporary accommodation, identifying the use of that temporary accommodation, prioritising those that provide classroom space as opposed to support space and by reference to the backlog of repair set out in the Asset Management Plan.

3.14 Exhall Cedars Infant School temporary classroom replacement

This proposal will be funded from the balance of £1.5 million for temporary classrooms approved in the report to Cabinet of 24 May.

It is proposed to replace a temporary building at Exhall Cedars Infant School used and managed by the school for a pre-school setting.

The building has no running water, no permanent drainage system, no WC provision and is located at the top of a steep embankment accessed via steps. The building is not fit for purpose as a pre-school setting. The pre-school helps the authority meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient early years provision.

The building's location on the site means that parents, guardians and others need to enter the school grounds, cross the playground and wait at the rear of the school when delivering or collecting children from pre-school. Whilst the school has adequate safeguarding policies in place to manage the risks, the situation is far from ideal.

It is proposed to provide a new building with adequate facilities, located near the front of the site to limit access onto the main school site.

It is proposed to allocate £250,000 to this proposal.

4.0 Future pressures

- 4.1 People Group has identified that a number of areas of the county are likely to require an expansion of the number of school places in the next 12 - 24 months. The Basic Need pressures include only additional demand arising from population (birth rate) increase and do not include the effect of future housing developments. These pressures are set out in table 4.4 below.
- 4.2 In addition, there is an increase in the number of pupils presenting with Additional Educational Needs, that is, pupils who may be on the Autistic Spectrum and / or may have emotional behavioural or social difficulties. The increase in demand is being met with an increase in the number of out-of-county placements. To ensure that there are sufficient places available locally to meet local needs, better provision for young people and reduced transport costs, People Group is considering meeting these needs through the establishment of a new school.
- 4.3 An initial appraisal has indicated that the cost of a new school is likely to be in the order of £7,500,000. The allocation of any corporate resources towards the cost of such a school will form part of the 2013/2014 budget deliberations. The anticipated cost of this proposal is included in the table to 4.4 below.
- 4.4 The table below sets out the notional investment levels required to meet the needs identified in paragraphs 4.1 -4.3 above.

This will be the subject of future reports to cabinet:-

Location	Phase	Likely need	Value £m
Stratford district	Secondary	One form of entry	2.50

Rugby	Secondary	One form of entry	2.50
Rugby	Primary	One form of entry	2.80
Shipston on Stour	Secondary	One form of entry	2.50
Kenilworth	Primary	Half form of entry	1.00
		BASIC NEED	£11.3 million
New Additional Needs School	Special	60 places	7.50
		TOTAL	£18.8 million

4.5 The impact of major new housing developments is likely to increase the number of places required at each location and scale of investment. It is anticipated that additional demand arising from housing development will be met from Developer Contributions and / or Community Infrastructure Levy and is outside the scope of the values in the above table.

4.6 Officers are working to prepare a forward plan for investment in school places that will indicate the approximate value and timing of investment required. This will be the subject of a future report and will inform future programme setting.

5.0 Revenue implications

5.1 Revenue implications of these proposals will be managed within the Schools budget setting.

There are no revenue implications for WCC.

6.0 Risk

6.1 There are no identified risks to the proposals in this report.

	Name	Contact details
Report Author	John Harmon	01926 41 2177
Head of Service	Steve M Smith Mark Gore	
Strategic Director Resources Group	David Carter	01926 412564
Strategic Director Peoples Group	Wendy Fabbro	01926 412665
Portfolio Holder, Children Safeguarding, schools and early intervention	Heather Timms	01926 410410

Portfolio Holder Customers, Access and Physical Assets	Colin Hayfield	01926 410410
---	----------------	--------------

				APPENDIX A
FUNDING				
REF	Source/ location	Proposal	Expenditure	Resources
-				
-	Balance from 24 May report			£6,133,000
-	Adjustments in Q1 Monitoring Report			-£40,000
-	Adjustment for new school at Arley funded entirely from Capital Receipt for NLS			£3,750,000
	Currently available resource			£9,843,000
2.2	Basic need allocation 2012/13			£3,139,949
	Total resource			£12,982,949
EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS				
3.2.1	Warwick Town	Additional 1FE	£2,800,000	
3.2.2	Barford St Peters	Additional classroom	£230,000	
3.2.3	Budbrooke Primary School	Additional classroom	£350,000	
3.2.4	The Ferncumbe School	Additional classroom	£250,000	
3.2.5	The Kingsbury School	Additional Hall	£250,000	
3.2.6	Wembrook School	Additional School Hall	£425,000	
3.2.7	Quinton Primary School	School expansion	£1,250,000	
3.3.1	St Giles	Health and Safety	£40,000	
	New expenditure proposals		£5,595,000	
New schemes from previously approved sums				
3.4.1	Temporary Classrooms	Replacement	£0	
3.4.2	Exhall Cedars	Pre-school	£0	
	Total proposed expenditure		£5,595,000	
SUMMARY				
Total resource				£12,982,949
Total proposed expenditure				-£5,595,000
Unallocated balance				£7,387,949
Future pressures				
4.4		Basic Need	£11,300,000	
4.4		New BESD School	£7,500,000	
Currently identified pressures			£18,800,000	
Unallocated balance			-£7,387,949	
Unfunded future pressures*			£11,412,051	
* Subject to 2013/14 DfE funding settlement				

B1 Basic Need and Sufficiency

Basic Need is defined by the Department for Education as “the excess of forecast demand for pupil places over the existing schools capacity to provide them”. The general test would be whether schools in an area can accommodate the number of pupils who currently, or are forecast to, require places. The Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient places available for pupils who may require one and to ensure that there is a diversity of provision.

Basic Need arises from an increase in demand from population growth, either through increases in the birth rate or from inward migration.

Each year, the government collects data on school place planning from the authority and allocates a sum of money, (the Basic Need allocation) to meet the net additional demand.

The Department for Education is revising its method for allocating Basic Need and now gathers pupil data on an area basis. This will allow areas where there is significant pressure on school places to be more easily identified and for resources to be targeted more effectively.

In recent years, Warwickshire County Council has spent more than it's Basic Need Allocation to provide new school places.

Sufficiency is a constituent part of assessing a schools capacity and looks at the number and range of room types within the building to identify deficits or surpluses. Deficits in certain types of space may reduce the schools ability to organise, give access to, or deliver elements of the curriculum.

B2 The Impact of Housing Development and Developer Contributions:

The likely impact of new housing development on the need for school places is calculated based on information published by the Office of National Statistics and on analyses of completed developments around the county.

There is no automatic right to receive contributions from developments and no right to use them for any other purpose than that for which they were given.

Where it can be demonstrated that a development is likely to result in an increase in demand for school places, a request is made to the developer for contributions to help meet the cost of new school places. The payments usually take the form of an initial payment, followed by interim payments triggered by completion of a number of units. Developer contributions are collected and held centrally by Resources group and applied to named schools for the purposes set out in the legal agreements.

Where following development, the forecast demand does not materialise or is lower than predicted; contributions paid by the developer are adjusted and any balance owing is returned.

Some up-front expenditure by the authority, from its own resources, is usually required. For example, where a development of 1,000 new homes produces a requirement for a new primary school, the developer will make an initial payment followed by a series of interim contributions based on the number of homes that have been completed; each phase of completions will trigger a payment. As the new homes are occupied there will be an increase in demand for school places; to meet the increased demand, the new school (or part of it) will need to be available from the early stages of the development.

This requires the authority to fund the provision of the new school up-front and recover its expenditure gradually from interim payments made by the developer. For example, the authority might allocate say £3million from its Capital Programme to build a new primary school but only finally recover that sum from the developer over a period of say 6- 8 years.

There is therefore a medium to long-term impact on the availability of funding in the capital programme as a result of the council's need to pay first and recover later.

Officers are exploring other methods of payment that would obviate the need for the authority to forward-fund new schools which arise as a result of development.

The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) under which contributions from all developments are pooled may help reduce the need for forward funding still further. However, CIL charges will be collected and distributed by the District and Borough Councils on whom the County will rely for adequate and timely funding. The details of how this arrangement will work are yet to be agreed.

B3 Future Pressure - New Additional Needs School

People Group has identified a number of areas of the county that will require the provision of additional school places. Forecasts are based on data from existing school rolls and on birth rate data provided by the PCT.

Forecasts have identified areas of the county or specific locations where the increased demand will be felt; it will now be necessary to carry out an options study to identify how that demand can be met, at which school(s), at what cost and in what time period.

The scale of the demand is likely to require that all currently unallocated resources in the Schools Capital Programme will be required to offset the cost. There will also be a significant impact on future allocations from DfE and there may also be a call on corporate resources and future capital receipts.

This matter will be the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

There are an increasing number of pupils presenting with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) many of whose needs are met through out-of-county placements.

People group has identified a need for a new special school to meet the increased demand for places, to ensure that there is quality provision for pupils with additional educational needs and to reduce the cost to the Service of purchasing a potentially increasing number of out-of-county placements from other providers.

Under recent amendments to the Education Act 2011 there is a presumption that all newly established schools will be Academies. Where an authority identifies the need for a new school they are required to provide a site and to the capital funding required to build it. On completion the new school would acquire Academy status and the land and buildings would be transferred to the Academy.

An initial feasibility study has established the likely cost of a new school, its size and preferred location. A number of potential sites and various options are currently being considered. Subject to the identification of sufficient resources the outcome of this feasibility study will inform a future report to Cabinet.

It is likely that the development of a new school will cost in the order of £7,500,000 which represents more than half of current capital allocations to the schools programme.

A single project of this size would dramatically reduce the Authority's ability to meet other pressures across its schools portfolio (see para 4 above).

In order to reduce the impact on other areas of the programme and preserve the authority's ability to meet other demands, the means of funding a new special school is likely to rely on a combination of different sources of funding and could include contributions from:

- Schools Capital Programme
- Corporate resources
- Earmarked capital receipts

People Group recently submitted a bid to Council for corporate resources for this purpose which will be considered as part of setting the 2013/14 budget.

The allocation of earmarked capital receipts is examined below.

B4 Disposals and Capital Receipts:

The county council has, over a number of years, rationalised its schools portfolio through reorganisation and rationalisation. This has resulted in a number of surplus school sites, some of which are pending disposal.

Members will be aware that there are restrictions on the disposal of school playing fields and land for educational purposes. Disposal of such land

requires the consent of the Secretary of State to whom a formal application must be made.

At the time of seeking consent, applicants must identify how any capital receipt arising will be used. It is not sufficient to make a general statement that receipts will be reinvested in education and it is only permissible in exceptional circumstances to use the receipt for any purpose other than the provision of sport or education.

The applicant must name a specific proposal for which the receipt is earmarked; that purpose would usually be indoor and outdoor sport or education purposes. If the County Council wanted to use the receipts from the disposal of former school sites for any other purpose it would need to state that purpose in its application.

So, in every event, for a disposal application to be made, the county council must first take a decision regarding the intended use of the receipt and, in its application for consent, name a specific purpose to which the proceeds of sale will be applied.

People Group has identified future pressures on the provision of school places and increased numbers of children presenting with additional educational needs. These issues will be the subject of future reports.