

Cabinet

24 July 2018

Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme 2018/19 and Approval of Statutory Proposals

Recommendations

That Cabinet agrees:

- 1) To the request to carry out the following consultations (as outlined in Section 3):
 - To expand Boughton Leigh Infant School, Rugby, from 3 forms of entry to 4 forms of entry
 - To extend the age range at Brownsover Infant School, Rugby, from 3 to 7 years old to 3 to 11 years old
- 2) To approve the following proposal for prescribed alterations (as outlined in Section 4):
 - The reconfiguration and refurbishment of classrooms at Exhall Grange School to enable the increase in places for learners with SEND
- 3) To approve the sum of £1,934,013 to be added to the capital programme to deliver the schemes outlined in Section 4 and the feasibility work outlined in Section 3.
- 4) To approve the proposal to relocate Lighthorne Heath Primary School as outlined in Section 4.
- 5) Subject to the approval of recommendation 1 and 3 above, that the Joint Managing Director (Communities) is authorised to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources), or (where the scheme is school-led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

1. Key Issues

- 1.1. This report recommends proposals for allocating resources in the Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme to specific projects set out in section 4. Some of the proposals include funding from developer contributions.
- 1.2. Warwickshire's Education Strategy 2018-2023 has been revised outlining the priorities for the next five years. The Education Sufficiency Strategy has been reworked to align with these priorities; maximising opportunities to secure sufficient childcare, working with commissioners to increase the number of places for learners with SEND in Warwickshire special and mainstream settings, and planning and responding to the growth in school places whilst working to ensure all learners enjoy a high quality learning experience.
- 1.3. The overall numbers of primary school children will continue to grow over the next five years, as larger year groups work their way through, before beginning to stabilise although the impact of planned new housing in some areas will offset this.
- 1.4. Overall numbers in secondary schools have been growing since September 2015 as larger cohorts transfer from primary schools, currently expecting to peak in September 2022 to correspond with the Reception peak seven years earlier.
- 1.5. Where appropriate, and where economies of scale allow, expansions and building works will address other factors such as encouraging infant and junior to become primary, addressing pre-school requirements in an area, providing specialist SEN provision, and addressing any outstanding DDA requirements.
- 1.6. The increased birth rate has seen an associated rise in the number of children with special educational needs and we already secure places for a significant number of pupils at establishments outside the county. The housing demand will bring further increase in demand for SEND provision.
- 1.7. Formal consultation is required on proposals that would permanently increase the capacity of a maintained school by:
 - (a) more than 30 pupils; and
 - (b) by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser)
- 1.8. Proposals to increase the number of pupils admitted at schools across a wide area of Warwickshire are explained within this report.
- 1.9. Whilst the issue of sufficiency of provision has to take priority, it is important to ensure that schools that are not expanding are able to continue to operate within their existing accommodation. Details of proposed schemes to make improvements

to existing schools are set out below. It is also important to recognise that whilst we are committed to offering good or outstanding places and invest in these schools; we are also committed to investing in schools struggling with improvements where the investment addresses capacity, education delivery, half forms to whole forms of entry and defects.

- 1.10. In November 2017 and February 2018 Cabinet approved schemes to increase the number of special school places across the County; however, the need for further projects is required to meet demand and reduce the need for out of area placements. These projects will help ensure there is sufficient provision of the right type meeting the appropriate levels of need within Warwickshire; thereby reducing both the cost and need to send pupils to out of county placements.
- 1.11. The current available funding is set out in Section 2.

2. Available Funding

- 2.1. Allocations of grant funding from the Department for Education were notified to the authority in February 2016. Allocations are paid annually and are not available for expenditure until the start of the financial year within which they are received.
- 2.2. To ensure school places are available when needed it is sometimes necessary to temporarily fund capital spend from DfE Capital Grant in advance of the S106 developer contribution funds available for a project being received. Once the S106 contributions are received the DfE Grant funding can be released back into the capital programme. There is currently no grant funding released in this way to report.

2.3. Breakdown of available funds

Balance of unallocated capital funds	£3,093,653
Release of temporary funding back into the capital programme (see paragraph 2.2)	£0
Developer funding	£222,013
DfE Special Provision Fund	£424,524
Total	£3,740,190

3. Consultation Request

3.1. Cabinet is asked to approve the following request to consult:

3.2. Boughton Leigh and Brownsover area reorganisation

There is currently a mismatch of infant and junior places in the Boughton Leigh and Brownsover area of North Rugby. 150 infant places, made up of 60 places at Brownsover Community School and 90 places at Boughton Leigh Infant School feed into 120 available year 3 places at Boughton Leigh Junior School.

To date this shortfall in junior places has been managed through a combination of lower infant cohorts, capacity in other primary schools in Rugby town and temporary bulge classes in other primary schools. However, this shortfall creates a greater level of uncertainty not only for the local authority when planning for the sufficiency of pupils places in the area, but also for pupils and families when transferring from year 2 to year 3.

In order to address this mismatch the following 'prescribed alterations' are proposed at the following schools:

Brownsover Community School: To extend the age range from 3 to 7 years to 3 to 11 years reorganising the school from a 2FE infant school to a 1FE primary school. This proposal will create the Key Stage 2 capacity required and allow pupils to benefit from the continuity of teaching and learning that primary provision provides.

Boughton Leigh Infant School: To expand the school from 3FE to 4FE. This will replace the infant capacity lost from extending Brownsover Community School to a 1FE primary school and create a more uniform link between Boughton Leigh Infant School and Boughton Leigh Junior School.

There are currently developer funds from a development in the north of Rugby available towards feasibility for primary education. It is proposed to allocate these funds towards feasibility work on these proposed changes.

Cabinet approval is sought to carry out a consultation on the proposed changes at Brownsover Community School and Boughton Leigh Infant School.

Cabinet approval to allocate developer funding for feasibility £9,125

4. Proposals for 2018/ 2019 Capital Programme

4.1. It is requested that Cabinet approve the following capital projects to be added to the capital programme:

4.2. Exhall Grange School and Science College, Ash Green

In February 2018 Cabinet gave approval to consult on increasing the number of places for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Exhall Grange School.

This school provides a County-wide service for pupils ranging in age from 2 to 19 years. The school meets the needs of pupils with a visual impairment, physical disabilities, complex medical needs and social communication difficulties including autism, who are able to access the national curriculum. As the school provides a service across the County this expansion would be of benefit to a wide range of areas.

The proposal is to create approximately 44 additional places for learners with SEND; exact numbers will be dependent on the individual needs of the pupils placed.

Exhall Grange School has in the last year taken possession of parts of its accommodation that have been let out to third party organisations for a number of years. This provides an opportunity for the school to change how the whole site is configured and to provide significant benefits to existing learners as well as to provide space for an increase in numbers. The school faces pressure on school places (particularly in post-16) and now feels it has the capacity to accommodate an increase in the numbers on site.

The estimated total cost of these works is £490,000. It is proposed to fund this through a combination of school reserves and capital from the Special Provision Fund that has been provided to all English local authorities by the Department for Education for the development of specialist provision between 2018 and 2021.

A consultation was carried out between 4th May 2018 and 8th June 2018. There were 11 responses in total to the consultation. Over half of the respondents (6 responses) agreed with the proposal, one respondent disagreed with the proposal and the remaining four responses neither agreed or disagree with the proposal.

There were several concerns raised in the consultation primarily relating to staffing capacity to accommodate the additional pupils, funding and the whether the needs of the additional pupils would differ to those currently on roll at the school.

In terms of addressing these concerns, any additional pupils attending Exhall Grange School as a result of the proposed expansion will be funded at the same level as the

existing pupils, according to Warwickshire's special school funding matrix and as such will be sufficiently funded to provide appropriate staffing to meet their needs. The LA has made good quality provision for pupils displaying challenging behaviours in other schools and as such needs of any new pupils on the Exhall Grange site are unlikely to exhibit any more 'behavioural problems' than the school currently works so well to support.

A breakdown of responses is included in Appendix 2

It is proposed to allocate:

DfE Special Provision Fund	£340,000
Other contribution	£150,000
Total cost	£490,000

4.3. Water Orton Primary School relocation

Members will be aware that as part of the proposed route of HS2 it will be necessary to relocate Water Orton Primary School and that a negotiated package of compensation was agreed with the promoters of HS2.

In April 2016 cabinet gave approval for the allocation of education capital resources totalling £2,000,000 towards the total anticipated project cost of £5,500,000. The settlement with HS2 includes the provision of a site for a new school and a contribution of £3,500,000 towards the cost of the replacement school.

Given the passage of time between approval of resources and the final agreement with HS2 completing there has been a rise in the base cost for the replacement school building in line with inflation costs. As such current cost plans for the project anticipate a total of £5,750,000.

The settlement to be received from HS2 will be indexed and is expected to cover some, if not all, of this shortfall. However, in the interim it is proposed to allocate funds from Education and Learning capital resources to cover the shortfall in order to provide financial assurance to the project.

The additional funding required is £250,000

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources	£250,000
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4.4. Early Years provision in Wellesbourne and surrounding area

There are currently no vacant Early Years places available in Wellesbourne and the surrounding area and the full year impact of the 30 hours introduction has still to be accommodated.

The increase in demand is likely to be due to a combination of factors including new housing in Wellesbourne, the introduction of 30 hours funded childcare for working parents from September 2017 (increased from 15 hours), and the closure of two nearby Early Years providers.

The area is in need of additional full day care places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Any new places must be flexible to meet the needs of working families and be offered as more than just term-time only models.

In order to meet this shortfall in Early Years places, there is a proposal to add capacity to the Seedlings Nursery that operates from Warwick HRI site on the outskirts of Wellesbourne. It offers 43 places for children aged 0-4 at any one time and has 73 children attending each week. The nursery holds a lease from the University of Warwick and is situated on land that is covenanted for use for education/training only.

The proposed scheme would install a modular building within the large outdoor space included in the leased area. This will allow the nursery to offer a further 24 places for pre school children aged 3-4 which will be available all year.

S106 funding has been identified from development in the Barford area. The Warwick HRI site is 2.2 miles away from the Barford development which is within the 3 miles stipulated in the S106 agreement. Early years provision in Barford is also full and this scheme would relieve pressure on places in Barford also.

The owner of Seedlings Nursery would be delivering the project, with the support of the University, and is able to contribute towards 25% of the cost of the building and would also cover the cost of additional resources. There would be a requirement from the nursery to sign a grant agreement if funding is given, so that we are assured of the delivery of the places for an agreed period.

It is proposed to allocate:

Developer Funding £120,000

4.5. Welford-on-Avon Primary School, Stratford-on-Avon

In March 2017 Cabinet gave funding approval of £1.5million for improvements and extension to the School Hall and Early Years provision at the school in order to alleviate pressure on the school's communal facilities brought about by increased pupil numbers from housing development.

Since approval in March 2017, the cost plan for the project has been received indicating a shortfall in the funding available for the project. A number of factors have contributed to increasing the cost of the project with these primarily focusing around higher than anticipated site construction costs and a variation in the scope of the project to allow the accommodation of a Resourced Provision for SEND learners.

The project encompasses a new school hall, refurbishment of the existing Early Years building to better meet the demand for childcare in the area and, in addition to that outlined in the March 2017 Cabinet, the relocation of the maintained nursery from within the school building to a self-contained modular unit. The relocation of the nursery will then make available an area in the school in which a Resource Provision for SEND learners can be located.

The additional funding required is £272,000

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £272,000

4.6. Harbury C of E Primary School, Stratford on Avon

In order to ensure to Harbury C of E Primary School has the flexibility to accommodate additional pupil numbers, should there be a requirement in future years, it is proposed for work to be undertaken to improve two existing shared areas within the school, one supporting KS1 and one supporting KS2.

In addition there is the opportunity to develop the current inclusion provision through nurture room/library/intervention space should funds allow.

The works proposed are as follows:

- To develop the existing shared space in KS1 to provide a flexible learning space capable accommodating a full class of 30 KS1 pupils, including revamping the existing toilets and external doors/ cloaks area.

form of entry. The additional costs also include a temporary classroom to accommodate the new intake for approximately 6 months whilst the building work is underway which was not accounted for in the original budget.

The additional funding required is £350,000

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £350,000

4.9. Removal of temporary classrooms blockheader

There are temporary classrooms unfit for use, and in situ on school sites, which are blocking the progression of school projects or presenting a health and safety risk. It is proposed that a block of money is approved to remove temporary accommodation at school sites that are presenting immediate issues.

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £150,000

4.10. Relocation of Lighthorne Heath Primary School as part of the Primary Education proposals for the Gaydon Lighthorne Heath Development

As part of the permitted 3000 home development on land at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath (GLH) education land has been secured on the development site for the provision of primary school places.

Instead of opening new provision, it is proposed by Education and Learning to relocate and subsequently expand Lighthorne Heath Primary School.

This proposal has the full support of the school's governing body. Lighthorne Heath Primary School has a Published Admission Number of 13 and 44 children on roll; therefore operating at less than half of its current capacity. This under capacity creates a significant financial challenge on the school budget and available resources. The relocation of the school to aid subsequent expansion would not only build on the facilities currently available to pupils but also ensure the financial viability of this small school.

The distance between the current school site and the development site is under two miles therefore a statutory process under the Prescribed Alterations Arrangements does not need to be undertaken to relocate the school.

During the pre planning, planning and post approval stages of the GLH development, the school and WCC have been open regarding the preferred option to relocate Lighthorne Heath Primary School on to GLH site.

The school has reported minimal comments and queries regarding the re location of the school with comments and concerns over the last two to three years focused primarily around the relocation of the school from one community to another and the safe access to the school on the new site from Lighthorne Heath. In addressing some of these concerns, as part of establishing a physical and community link between Lighthorne Heath and the new development, pedestrian access across the main highway will be incorporated into the overall access plan for the development.

In order to formalise the proposal for primary education on the GLH development, Cabinet is requested to agree the proposal to relocate Lighthorne Heath Primary School onto the GLH development.

The allocation of funds to construct the new primary school on GLH and the results of the statutory process to expand Lighthorne Heath Primary School will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.

5. Finance

- 5.1. Details of currently available capital funding are listed in section 2 of the report. This available funding is a total of **£3,740,190**.
- 5.2. The project costs outlined within this report total **£1,934,013**, of which £222,013 is from developer funding, £1,222,000 is from Education capital resources, £340,000 is from the DfE Special Provision Fund, and £150,000 relates to external funding sources.
- 5.3. This leaves a balance of **£1,871,653** for future education capital projects. All future capital projects would be subject to a separate report to Cabinet.
- 5.4. There is balance of **£84,524** remaining from the DfE Special Provision Fund.
- 5.5. See **Appendix 1** for breakdown of income and expenditure.

6. Revenue Implications

- 6.1. Where schools are expanding at the request of the Local Authority, there is often a revenue implication in that additional teaching staff are required in the September but the schools budget does not reflect this until the following April. The Schools Forum

have agreed a policy to provide interim funding to schools to account for this and resources are provided from within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The schools noted in this report for expansion will be included in the relevant DSG budgets presented to the Forum for approval. However, it should be noted that the additional revenue costs associated with school expansions do put additional pressure on the DSG budgets which can contribute to DSG overspends.

7. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

7.1. The Government is reviewing the responsibilities of local authorities in relation to children, although responsibility for ensuring every child has a school place and ensuring the needs of vulnerable learners are met are expected to remain. Any implications for the proposals in this report that may arise as further details of these future proposals emerge will be brought back to Elected Members.

8. Background papers

8.1. None

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Finance Breakdown

Appendix 2 – Consultation responses for Exhall Grange School and Science College

Appendix 3 – EQIA

This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Elected Member(s):
Cllr Colin Hayfield
Cllr Jeff Morgan
Cllr Yousef Dahmash
Cllr Chris Williams
Cllr Corinne Davies
Cllr Jerry Roodhouse

Appendix 1

Basic Need (18/19 figure)		£2,967,964			
Previous Balance (17/18)		£23,689			
Transfer back to the pot at Outturn 17/18		£102,000			
Q1 forecast changes to Basic Need Pot		£0			
S106 funding used instead of Basic Need		£0			
	Subtotal	£3,093,653			
Projects in Cabinet Report	Total cost	Basic Need C2110	S106 C2070	DfE Special Provision Fund	Other
Harbury C of E Primary School	£92,888		£92,888		
Seedlings Nursery (HRI Site, Warwick)	£120,000		£120,000		
Boughton Leigh/Brownsover Feasibility	£9,125		£9,125		
Welford on Avon Primary School	£272,000	£272,000			
Exhall Grange School	£490,000			£340,000	£150,000
Michael Drayton Junior School	£350,000	£350,000			
The Polesworth School PSBP2	£200,000	£200,000			
Temporary Classroom Removal	£150,000	£150,000			
Water Orton Additional Funding	£250,000	£250,000			
Total project cost	£1,934,013	£1,222,000	£222,013	£340,000	£150,000
	Current Surplus/ (Deficit)	£1,871,653		£84,524	

Appendix 2

Exhall Grange School consultation responses (Responses are included as written by the consultee)

Please add any additional comments relating to the proposal below	WCC Comment
<p>We are concerned that there will be adequate and appropriate staffing for the extra pupils. Also we are concerned that there will be too much emphasis on children with behavioural problems.</p>	<p>Any additional pupils attending Exhall Grange School as a result of the proposed expansion will be funded at the same level as the existing pupils, according to Warwickshire's special school funding matrix and as such will be sufficiently funded to provide appropriate staffing to meet their needs. The LA has made good quality provision for pupils displaying challenging behaviours in other schools and as such needs of any new pupils on the Exhall Grange site are unlikely to exhibit any more 'behavioural problems' than the school currently works so well to support.</p>
<p>If extra places come with extra staffing and not bigger class size I welcome this However the quality of learning will be at risk if more staff do not come with the proposal</p>	<p>The proposed expansion will attract additional funding and therefore provide for additional staffing and will not stretch existing resources nor impact on the educational offer to current pupils.</p>
<p>I am very much aware of the need for additional special school places and would every child to have the same quality of education my child has. I do have a few concerns:</p> <p>It appears that the pupil group in question is not quite the same as those currently on roll. In particular there seems to be significant scope for behavioural difficulties. This is a group of children that Exhall has traditionally not had on roll due to the physical vulnerability of children such as my son and many of his fellow pupils. I am concerned to see this changed and wonder if there is not more mileage in increasing the capacity of the soon to be built new special school near me here in Rugby and other similar schools more focused on behavioural difficulties.</p> <p>Secondly I am concerned that in these times when the government is not supporting schools as it ought and funding is inadequate that the school spends significantly out of its reserves.</p> <p>Thirdly I know from my son's class teacher that she has insufficient support in class to allow each pupil to have all the support they need and she often appears overwhelmed (while very competent indeed). More should be done to support the pupils already in the school rather than stretching resources further. I am sure new staff will be put in place, but it never covers everything.</p>	<p>As stated above the needs of any new pupils will be unlikely to exhibit any more 'behavioural problems' than the school currently supports and there will be no risks arising to existing learners as a result of the expansion. The LA is working with existing special schools across the County to expand capacity, so the proposed expansion of Exhall Grange should not be viewed in isolation.</p> <p>As stated above, the resourcing for the additional pupils will be at the same level as for existing pupils, so these proposals will not increase pressure on current resources.</p>

<p>Just wondering will be there extra staff employed to accommodate the extra places because it will probably mean 3 to 4 places per year group which does not sound a lot but is when it comes to Specialist Education.</p> <p>Another issue is that Specialist Occupational Sensory Integration Therapy is based in the South of Warwickshire in Stratford. Parents have to travel 50 to 60 miles to take their children there, it takes 3 hours out of their school day!</p> <p>Wouldn't it be better to have a classroom sized sensory integration therapy room at Exhall Grange School to meet the needs of children with sensory processing disorders in the north of county.</p> <p>This sensory based approach would truly bring the school in 21st century, like other schools in the country and help children achieve their true potential. Children in the north would get parity with their southern counterparts and this would be fairer for all children. Thank you.</p>	<p>The issue being raised relates to a health service, so whilst the observation and suggestion may be valid, these are funded by local Clinical Commissioning Groups who take responsibility for health services. The expansion of the school is funded through resources provided by the Department for Education and these resources could not be diverted to fund development of new health provision. Warwickshire faces increasing demand for school places across both mainstream and special schools and as such there must be a focus on ensuring there are enough school places to meet the needs of the County's growing population in the coming years.</p> <p>Having said that we certainly recognise the need for education, health and care commissioners to be as joined-up as possible and this suggestion will be passed on to the Joint Commissioning Board for consideration.</p>
<p>I have no real objections to increasing the numbers at the school as they have the buildings to accommodate the proposed expansion. My concerns are the number of teaching staff specially qualified to teach the VI & Blind students plus the rehabilitation services being able to meet the current demands. Will these services be expanded to meet the new demands of increased student numbers when already they have seen cut backs over the last few years. I have a strong feelings regarding the compromised VI services at the school</p>	<p>As has been stated above the level of resourcing for any additional pupils will be at the same level as for existing pupils so these proposals will not increase pressure on current resources. How these resources are deployed will be dependent on the needs of pupils coming into the school and will be for the school's senior leadership to determine. It would be inappropriate to comment on all individual specialisms required at this stage in the process other than to say that the school will retain its VI specialism and will also recognise and invest in the skills required to meet the needs of all learners attending the school.</p>

1) Remodelling of Canterbury Block - This currently houses the family Liason department and IT Technician - will there be space for them in the new model as important teams within the school

2) Relocation of toy library, sensory rm to building 9 - currently no toilet facilities within B9 so may need to be added particularly if dining area is to be included. Also where are the music department moving to as they are currently in B9

3) Learning pod relocated to bungalow - currently the base for the caretaking and maintenance staff. Where will they be housed?

4) Increase of 24 primary places and 20 sixth form places - assuming pupils stay on to secondary, this will have a knock on effect on classroom space and teaching staff within secondary. Extra sixth form will also have an effect on teaching timetables and groups within secondary as it is secondary staff who staff these groups. Has the extra accommodation within secondary and staff requirements been considered. Capital funds may have been identified for the refurbishment but what about funding for staff, resources and secondary classroom provision. The proposal talks of a 'moderate' increase in numbers but 44 out of the 200 currently on roll is nearly 25% increase to start with, rising to more if all new primary pupils stay into secondary.

Points 1-3 - All current staffing and services impacted by the proposals will be provided with suitable accommodation within the school. The plans have been carefully developed and individual staff impacted have been considered as part of the process. Proposals will be shared and discussed with individual staff as the process develops and a number of options remain open which are interdependent on each other: Unfortunately, this means it is impossible to share the final position at this stage.

Point 4 - this is incorrect. The plans are not for expansion by 24 primary places - the phase of the expansion was not specified in the proposals. There are particular issues to address in the primary block regarding toileting, but the capacity being added (including that within Building 9) will be flexible and will be used for both primary as well as secondary phases.