

## Council

24 September 2015

### Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme

#### Recommendations from Cabinet

That Council approves:

- (i) Proposals for expansions and alterations of existing schools as detailed in sections 3 and 4 and summarised in the Table at paragraph 6.
- (ii) Provision of new schools to serve new developments in Rugby and Warwick as detailed in sections 3 and 4 and summarised in the Table at paragraph 6

#### 1. Key Issues

- 1.1. At its meeting on 16 July 2015, Cabinet considered, and agreed that Council be asked to approve, proposals for allocating resources in the Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme to specific projects.

Large areas of Warwickshire have seen a significant increase in the birth rate over recent years and this has resulted in pressure on existing primary school places. Additional capacity has already been built at a number of schools however, further expansion is required to meet the forecast demand and the demand due to the housing developments across the various areas.

- 1.2. Where possible, 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 provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and addressing any outstanding Disability Discrimination Act requirements originally identified under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (the DDA 1995); and from October 2010, under the Equality Act 2010.

- 1.3. 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 this demographic.

1.4. Formal consultation is required on proposals that would permanently increase the capacity of a school by:

- more than 30 pupils;
- by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser)

This paper proposes alterations and extensions to schools that will in a number of cases require formal consultation to be carried out.

1.5. At the time of formal consultation, a consultation document will be sent to the parents and carers of all pupils, to prospective parents, staff, the governing bodies and the Student Council of individual schools. Copies will also be distributed to other schools in the area, the local County Councillor, the District or Borough Council, local Parish Councils, Diocesan Education Authorities, admission authorities and the Local Member of Parliament.

1.6. Proposals to increase the number of pupils admitted at schools across a wide area of Warwickshire are explained within this report. Furthermore, there is a need to develop new primary school provision in Rugby and Warwick to mitigate the impact of new housing development on existing schools and to add further capacity and choice for parents.

1.7. 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.. It is also important to recognise that whilst we are committed to offering good or outstanding places and investing 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.

1.8. Cabinet recently approved schemes to increase the number of special school places across the County: however, further projects are required to meet capacity and 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 the cost of sending pupils to out of county placements.

## **2. General**

2.1. Allocations of future funding from the Department for Education were notified to the authority in February 2015. Whilst the 2015/16 figures were confirmed, confirmation is awaited that the previously notified indicative allocations for future years still stand. Similarly, some of the proposals included in this report will attract developer contributions which will be collected as developments

progress. Therefore, the income will not be received until future years. As both the level and phasing of future funding remains uncertain, this report seeks Council's approval to add the 2015/16 capital allocation from the Department for Education, developer contributions received / due in 2015/16 and the balance of unallocated funding from previous years to the capital programme and to allocate it to schemes as outlined in Sections 3 and 4. On this basis, the total funding available was £16,425,000

- 2.2. Cabinet considered the Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme at its meeting on 16 July 2015 and agreed that Council be asked to approve £17,599,000 of the proposals for expansions and alterations to schools and also to the provision of new developments in Rugby and Warwick. However, in advance of this meeting, it was necessary for the Deputy Leader to approve the addition of £874,000 of spend to the capital programme for those elements that needed to be delivered by the start of the new academic year in September 2015. This ensured that there were sufficient places and facilities to support education delivery where an immediate need was identified.
- 2.3. The projects approved by the Deputy Leader were:
- Long Lawford Primary School, Rugby ~ (cost £150,000)
  - Hillmorton Primary School. Rugby ~ (cost £150,000)
  - Nathaniel Newton Infant School, Hartshill ~ (cost £75,000)
  - Universal Infant Free School Meals ~ (cost £499,000)
- 2.4. It was also necessary for an urgent decision to be taken by the Leader to approve the transfer of £300,000 of Section 106 funding, allocated for the purpose of secondary and post 16 expansion in Stratford, to Stratford Girls' Grammar School to allow the school to complete works prior to the start of the new school year.

### **3. Options and Proposals**

#### **RUGBY**

##### **3.1. NEW SCHOOL - The Gateway, Rugby ~ (£3,150,000)**

As a result of housing development in the North of Rugby it is necessary to provide a new primary school to meet the demand arising from the specific development.

Land and funding has been secured through developer contributions for a new 1 Form Entry primary School. However, construction of the new school will be required before all of the relevant developer contributions have been collected. This will require an allocation to be made from Education and Learning capital

resources to bridge the gap between contributions collected and the cost of the new school.

It is intended that the new school will be a pre-designed, modular form of construction as delivered at Oakfield and Arley Primary Schools.

The estimated cost of this proposal is £3,150,000 of which £1,800,000 has been collected from the developer.

**3.2. Long Lawford Primary School, Rugby – permanent expansion (£2,950,000)**

Long Lawford Primary School is currently undergoing expansion to provide 60 places per year (2 Forms of Entry). It is forecast that demand for places locally will require a further expansion of the school to provide 90 places per year and that the school will be sustainable at this level. It is proposed to expand the school through the provision of an additional 7 classrooms, support and circulation areas, a studio hall space and external play areas. This proposal will provide permanent, additional places, with effect from September 2016.

**3.3. Hillmorton Primary School, Rugby ~ (£2,950,000)**

Hillmorton Primary School is currently a 210 place (1FE) Primary school, with a children's centre operated by Barnardo's. It is forecast that demand for places in the area will require a permanent expansion of the school to accommodate two forms of entry. It is proposed, therefore, to expand the school to accommodate 420 pupils (2FE).

## **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH**

**3.4. All Saints CE Primary School, Nuneaton ~ (£750,000)**

All Saints CE Primary School is a one-form entry school (210 pupils) with a nursery. Two class groups are currently taught in temporary classrooms which are separate to, and some distance from the main building, WC's, Hall, Library etc. The temporary buildings have been maintained but are now beyond economic repair. It is proposed to extend the school to provide two additional classrooms, circulation and cloaks and group space and to integrate these with the main building. The new accommodation will be available from September 2016.

**3.5. St Michaels CE Primary School, Bedworth ~ (£900,000)**

St Michaels Primary School previously admitted 45 pupils into the infant phase and 60 pupils into the junior phase. The additional 15 places in the junior phase were previously provided to meet the demand for places from All Saints CE Infant School in Bedworth.

Members will be aware that a scheme is currently being undertaken to expand All Saints Infants School to create an all-through primary school by converting the former Bridgeway Centre in Bedworth to provide a junior phase.

St Michaels CE Primary was asked by the authority to increase its admissions to the infant phase from 45 to 60; this was achieved without the provision of additional classrooms. However, as the increased pupil numbers have rolled through the school it has now become necessary to provide additional accommodation. It is proposed to provide 3 additional teaching spaces to meet the increased demand.

## **WARWICK DISTRICT**

### **3.6. NEW SCHOOL, Warwick ~ (£3,050,000)**

As part of the new developments to the South of Warwick it is proposed to provide 2 new primary schools and to expand local secondary school provision to provide the third primary school. The Council has secured developer contributions of land and funding to meet the cost of this additional provision.

In order to meet the demand for primary school places it will be necessary to procure and build the first new primary school before all of the relevant developer contributions have been collected. It is intended that the new school will be a pre-designed, modular form of construction as delivered at Oakfield and Arley Primary Schools.

### **3.7. Barford St Peters CE Primary School, Barford ~ (£330,000)**

It is proposed to expand Barford Primary School to provide an additional classroom. This will allow the school to organise as a one-form entry school with seven class groups each of thirty pupils.

The Council has secured developer contributions to mitigate the impact of recent housing developments in the area. It is intended to provide an additional classroom, circulation and group space at an estimated cost of £330,000 of which £186,000 will be provided by developer contributions. However, the developer contributions are not yet available and initially the whole of this proposal will need to be funded from Education & Learning capital resources.

### **3.8. Shipston ~ (£100,000)**

We will require additional capacity in the area of Shipston to meet the demand for school places. Shipston High is proposing to demolish and replace its existing gym block and to provide a new block of additional classrooms to add further capacity at the school.

The cost of the new teaching block has not yet been established and is dependent on a successful application to the Education Funding Agency. It is proposed to make a contribution to a first phase of works to demolish and replace the gymnasium.

### **3.9. Southam ~ (£1,000,000)**

There is substantial new housing planned in the catchment area of Southam College which will increase the demand for school places locally; developer contributions have been sought to help meet the impact of development.

The school has recently been directed to accept pupils via an appeal panel hearing taking the schools admissions from 210 in year 7 to 322. The impact of this direction requires the council to take mitigating action to safeguard the provision for children already on roll and to ensure that those attending from September are also able to access all aspects of the curriculum.

It is proposed to provide temporary modular classrooms providing science, technology and ICT plus much needed communal space. In addition to the provision of new teaching spaces the school is proposing to refurbish and extend existing areas to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers.

## **4. SEN Provision**

### **4.1. New Resourced SEN Provision across the County ~ (£250,000)**

A recent analysis of SEN provision and demand has identified significant gaps in Warwickshire's SEN provision across the County. These gaps in provision have been driving increases in the placement of pupils in costly out-of-authority provision. It is therefore proposed to develop a range of provision to address this need as follows: It is intended to allocate the funds from the sale of land at Manor Park once we are in receipt of this.

New specialist provision attached to mainstream schools would be able to meet the needs of many complex learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Communication and Interaction needs whilst remaining in their own communities. A model of provision has been developed based on best practice that would be able to accommodate up to 10 learners in secondary and up to 8 learners in primary as part of a mainstream school or academy site.

The priority would be to develop such provision on existing school / academy sites across the County, in Southern, Central, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Northern education planning areas. Ideally this would be accompanied by development of four primary school / academy sites across the County, in the same education planning areas.

This year the first developments are likely to be at Stockingford, Outwoods and Rokeby (primary provision) and at The Harris and George Eliot Academies (secondary provision). All five developments are estimated to cost in the order of £50,000 each.

**4.2. Boughton Leigh Junior ~ (£400,000)**

Specialist Inclusion Support Groups are designed to support children to be re-integrated into mainstream education. It is proposed to develop a Specialist Inclusion Support Group at Boughton Leigh Junior School. This will require the provision of a new building.

**4.3. New Satellite SEN Provision for learners with complex mental health needs ~ (£195,000)**

There is an urgent need for educational provision for learners in key stages 3 & 4 with acute mental health needs either who have been in-patients in psychiatric hospital and / or who are at a high risk of self-harm. These learners cannot be readily absorbed back into mainstream education, but are capable of achieving academic success and positive life outcomes given the right support. The alternative to local provision in such circumstances would be residential provision, which comes at extremely high cost (a learner in an acute mental health provision costs approximately £250,000 per annum) and does not support the learner in reintegrating back into their families and local communities.

Currently this service is being provided for circa 3 learners without suitable accommodation and with uncertainty of tenure in the medium term. There is the urgent need to provide more permanent accommodation for these learners. There is predicted to be a similar level of demand in the central and southern areas of the County in the future.

This type of provision would be ideally placed on a discrete site away from a formal school setting but within easy reach of appropriate facilities to provide learning programmes and therapeutic interventions. This model could accommodate up to 6 learners.

This year it is proposed that a centre for young people with complex mental health needs is developed in partnership with Exhall Grange. This would be located in the former Youth Wing at Coleshill.

In June 2011, Cabinet agreed to the disposal of the former Coleshill Youth Wing. It is now proposed that the sale does not go ahead and that the property is refurbished.

#### 4.4. Minor Works ~ (£400,000)

This funding is provided to adapt mainstream schools to enable pupils with special needs to secure a suitable space at a mainstream school and to meet any unplanned matters that arise during the financial year. The programme will be set according to outcome of decisions by the Capital Access and Organisation Board.

### 5. Finance

- 5.1. The current approved Education and Learning capital programme includes £6.280 million of resources currently unallocated to specific schemes. Funding from developers and the 2015/16 Government capital grant for schools confirmed since this time means there is now £16.425 million available, as outlined in Table 2.

<b>Table 2: Available Education and Learning (Schools) capital resources</b>	
	£ million
Unallocated resources in approved capital programme	5.860
Government capital grant for 2015/16	7.509
Top-slice reallocation to school maintenance as per Council policy	-3.000
Additional developer funding	6.056
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.425</b>

- 5.2. The proposed schemes detailed in sections 3 and 4 total £16.425 million, as summarised in Table 3. Council is requested to approve the addition of these schemes to the capital programme.

<b>Table 3: Proposed Spending from 2015/16</b>		
Para.	School	£ million
3.1	The Gateway, Rugby (new school)	3.150
3.2	Long Lawford, Rugby (additional classrooms)	2.950
3.3	Hillmorton Primary School, (additional classrooms)	2.950
3.4	All Saints, Nuneaton (additional classrooms)	0.750
3.5	St Michaels, Bedworth (additional classrooms)	0.900
3.6	Warwick (new school)	3.050
3.7	Barford St Peters (additional classrooms)	0.330
3.8	Shipston High School (additional classrooms)	0.100
3.9	Southam College (additional classrooms)	1.000
4.1	SEN Resource Provision	0.250
4.2	Boughton Leigh Junior (additional space)	0.400
4.3	Satellite Mental Health Needs (additional space)	0.195
4.4	Disability access and Minor Works	0.400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.425</b>

- 5.3. Approving schemes of £16.425 million utilises all available capital resources and does not provide for a contingency to unexpected events and cost variations different to the estimate. Therefore the programme will need to be monitored very closely, with any known or anticipated variations reported to Members, with the proposed course of action, through the quarterly One Organisation Plan Progress reports or a standalone report as required.

## 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.

## 7. Risk

- 7.1. The outcome of consultation exercises where school expansions are proposed. We have already consulted with headteachers from all schools contained within this report.

## 8. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 8.1. Where new schools or significant school expansions are proposed, it will be necessary to carry out formal consultations in accordance with guidance published by the Department for Education.

## 9. Background papers

None

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