

Council

20 March 2018

Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme 2017/18 and Approval of Statutory Proposals

Recommendation from Cabinet

That Council approves the addition of £3,076,540 to the Capital Programme to deliver the schemes outlined in section 3 of the report.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 Cabinet on 15 February 2018 considered and supported proposals for allocating resources in the Education and Learning (Schools) Capital Programme to specific projects set out in section 3 below. Some of the proposals include funding from developer contributions.
- 1.2 The number of children entering Reception classes peaked for entry in September 2015 and, with no further housing development, have begun to stabilise and in some areas start to decrease.
- 1.3 The overall numbers of Primary school children will continue to grow until September 2018, as larger year groups work their way through, before beginning to stabilise although the impact of planned new housing 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 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 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 SEN 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 Cabinet has recently 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. Details of these are provided. 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.

2.0 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 money available for a project being received. Once the S106 contributions are received the DfE Grant funding can be released back into the capital programme. The available funds outlined in this report include £2.436 million of grant funding released in this way.

2.3 Breakdown of available funds

Balance of unallocated capital funds	£433,842
Release of temporary funding back into the capital programme (see paragraph 2.2)	£2,436,847
Developer funding received	£230,000
Total	£3,100,689

3.0 Proposals for 2017/ 2018 Capital Programme

Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council add the following capital projects to the capital programme:

3.2 Water Orton Evergreen Unit (SEND Resource Provision)

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.

Water Orton Primary School currently hosts a SEND Resource Provision catering for up to 10 learners with Communication and Interaction needs. This provision needs to be relocated to the new school site but with the proposed school building currently accommodating the nursery and main body of the school additional accommodation is required for the Resource Provision. The cost of this provision was not included in the cost of relocating the school.

It is proposed to locate this Resource Provision in a modular building adjacent to the main school build on the new school site. The cost of providing this modular build has been estimated at £650,000.

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £650,000

3.3 The Coleshill School, Coleshill

The Coleshill School have recently increased their Published Admission Number (PAN) to from 180 pupils to 210 pupils which will increase capacity by an additional 150 places across the school over the next five years. This increase will enable the school to accommodate demand from growing primary cohorts within their priority area and the wider community.

This growth in area is expected to continue and the school require additional classrooms and infrastructure to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers.

The first phase will involve a modular build comprising 10 classrooms. The cost of providing this modular build has been estimated at £1,800,000.

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £1,800,000

3.4 Round Oak School, Support Service and Sports College, Warwick

On the 9th November 2017 Cabinet approved the allocation of £250,000 to increase places for primary and secondary learners with SEND in the Warwick area by September 2018.

As part of increasing this provision, a statutory consultation process was followed on the proposal to create approximately 28 places for learners with SEND at Round Oak School, Warwick.

The consultation on the proposal at Round Oak School was carried out with key stakeholders between 30th November 2017 and 12th January 2018. Twenty-three responses were received. Just over half of respondents disagreed with the proposal, over a quarter of respondents agreed with the proposal and 17% of provided a neutral response. In terms of disagreement with the proposal, the reasons provided were focused around the areas of the quality of learning currently being provided at the school, staffing capacity to manage the additional pupils, and continuation of 3 years at sixth form. (A copy of the consultation responses is available on the website at Appendix 2 to the report to Cabinet on 15 February 2018).

In terms of addressing some of the issues raised in the consultation, Warwickshire County Council (WCC), in partnership with all special schools, reviewed the funding matrix for the County's specialist provision in 2016 to ensure all schools were funded on a transparent and equitable basis. This means that children are funded on the same level based on assessed need no matter which generic school they attend. The changes identified are in the process of being phased in and are resulting in a relative increase in Round Oak's funding per pupil, which will ensure that staffing and resources are appropriate to meet the needs of learner's attending.

Round Oak School is working closely with the Local Authority and other special schools to ensure effective planning to meet the needs of learners currently at primary age, to ensure readiness for their transition to secondary. The additional capital funding will support expansion and will ensure the right facilities are available to meet these needs, without compromising or impacting on learners already attending the school. WCC also wishes to stress that the proposed expansion does not impact on the School's sixth form and there are currently no plans for changes to the School's sixth form offer.

It is proposed to create approximately 28 places for learners with SEND at Round Oak School, Warwick. To accommodate the additional pupils Cabinet has approved the reconfiguration of classrooms to create further capacity. This work is estimated to cost £190,000 and will be funded out of the £250,000 allocation approved by Cabinet November 2017. The remaining allocation of £60,000 will be used to provide additional primary places at Ridgeway School.

3.5 Kenilworth School and Sports College, Kenilworth

As a result of the development outlined for Kenilworth town in Warwick District Councils adopted Local Plan, Kenilworth School and Sixth Form are leading on a project to relocate and expand the school.

Approval is sought to allocate funds to Kenilworth School to be used during the master planning and land acquisition stages of the Kenilworth School relocation and expansion project. This is in addition to the £113,827 of developer funding from two agreements in the Kenilworth area that received approval in December 2017.

The remaining funding associated with the project is expected from a combination of the sale of the existing school sites for housing development and future developer contributions. Any further use of Capital Resources or Developer Funding will be subject to a report to cabinet at a later stage.

It is proposed to allocate:

Education Capital Resources £96,540

3.6 Barford St. Peter's C.Of E. Primary School, Barford

As a result of housing development in the area, Barford St Peter's C.Of.E Primary School was provided with an additional classroom to enable the school to operate as a one form entry primary school (210 pupils) from September 2016. This would allow the school to accommodate an additional 70 pupils.

With the current school capacity of 210 pupils plus the adjoining nursery, the school will need to produce approximately 200 full service meals per day. The existing facilities in the school currently prevent the school from doing this effectively and as part of the school expansion it is proposed to replace and extend the kitchen and servery at the front of the site.

There are developer funds available from development in Barford village that can be utilised to fund the project. The project will be undertaken by

It is proposed to allocate:

Developer Funding £230,000

3.7 Coleshill C Of E Primary School, Coleshill

The Coleshill Planning Area is experiencing increased in year pressure, particularly within Coleshill Town, as a result of a small amount of housing development and movement of pupils within the County.

In November 2017, Cabinet gave approval for the age range of High Meadow Infant to be extended to create a 1FE primary school and therefore increasing capacity by an additional 120 places across the school.

Coleshill C of E Primary School took a bulge class for Reception 2016 and Reception 2017. To continue to build capacity back into the Coleshill area and address the pressure from in-year movement, it is proposed to provide an additional class base at Coleshill Primary School to allow the school to admit up to 2FE. These additional pupils will initially be admitted as bulge classes whilst the proposal at High Meadow Infant School is finalised. Consultation will be needed to make the additional capacity permanent.

It is proposed to allocate:

Education capital resources £300,000

3.8 Developer Funding to Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), New Primary School Meon Vale

The Department for Education (DfE) have recently approved Tudor Grange Academies Trust as a sponsor to open a new school at Meon Vale, Stratford on Avon. The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is working alongside WCC and Tudor Grange Academies Trust in order that the school can open in September 2019

Land for the new primary school will be transferred to WCC as identified within an existing S106 Agreement with the Developer. The ESFA will forward fund and deliver the project for September 2019, subject to planning. Developer funding, as identified in the S106 Agreement, once received by WCC, will be transferred to ESFA to support the development of the school. The school site is retained by WCC and will be leased to the ESFA.

It is proposed to allocate up to:

Developer Funding £1,200,000

3.9 Developer Funding to Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), New Primary School Lower Farm, Nuneaton

The Department for Education (DfE) have recently approved REAch2 as a sponsor to open a new school in Nuneaton. The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is working alongside WCC and REAch2 in that order the school can open in September 2019.

Land for the new primary school has been transferred to WCC and the ESFA will forward fund and deliver the project for September 2019, subject to planning. Developer funding, as identified in S106 agreements and once received, will be transferred to ESFA to support the development of the school. The school site is retained by WCC and will be leased to the ESFA.

It is proposed to allocate up to:

Developer Funding £1,300,000

3.10 DfE Special Provision Fund: Exhall Grange School and Science College, Oak wood Primary School and Oak Wood Secondary School

On 4 March 2017 the Department for Education (DfE) announced the 'special provision fund' allocations, to support local authorities (LAs) to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision. WCC Cabinet were notified of this funding in the Education & Learning (Schools) Capital Programme report approved on the 9th November 2017. The funding, totalling £1,273,573 over three years, 2018-21, arrives in three annual sums of £424,524. The first instalment of £424,524 is due to be received Summer 2018.

As reported in the Draft Education & Learning Sufficiency Strategy 2017-22 there is severe pressure on Warwickshire's Special Schools caused by steep increases in demand and wider population growth. This funding is therefore being prioritised for expansion of special schools, and approval is sought for the following proposals in sections 3.11 and 3.12

3.11 Exhall Grange School and Science College, Ash Green

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 school has recently retaken possession of part of the school premises that had been in use as office accommodation for third parties. Capital funding will enable reconfiguration of this space (the 'Canterbury Wing') to provide accommodation for the 6th Form enabling expansion of circa 12-16 places taking the up to a total of 50 places. This would in-turn free-up space to create two additional classrooms for approximately 24 pupils. This requires the reconfiguration of existing and installation of two additional toilets.

The school also manages and operates a satellite Learning Pod on Packington Lane, Coleshill for learners with acute mental health needs, the majority of whom have been in in-patient psychiatric care. In order to further enhance this model of provision to benefit a wider range of learners and to improve pathways back in to education for learners who have been out of school, the school wishes to develop facilities on the school site to relocate the provision. This would reduce transportation costs and enable the Coleshill site to be transferred to another provider for educational use.

The alterations proposed could increase the total number of pupils at the school by more than 10% or 20 pupils (whichever is the lesser) therefore a statutory process will need to be followed and a consultation undertaken. Cabinet has agreed that a consultation exercise be undertaken.

3.12 **Oak Wood Primary and Secondary Special Schools, Nuneaton**

There are particular pressures on special school capacity in Nuneaton & Bedworth, and lack of capacity in the area is exacerbating transport costs of learners forced to travel to special schools in other areas. This capital funding would enable the school to reconfigure existing space within the school by relocating office accommodation and converting the ICT room in order to create 3 additional classrooms. One classroom would be for the primary school (an additional 8-10 pupils), the other two for secondary, one of which would be configured for learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), adding capacity for circa 16 pupils.

This allocation of funding builds upon the Education Capital funding agreed in a previous report presented to Cabinet in November 2017 approving a two classroom expansion to address the urgent need for places.

It is proposed to allocate:

Special Provision Fund Contribution £85,000

4.0 Finance

- 4.1 Details of currently available capital funding are listed in section 2 of the report. This available funding is a total of **£2,870,689**.
- 4.2 The project costs outlined within this report total **£3,076,540**, of which £230,000 is from developer funding, and £2,846,540 is from Education capital resources.
- 4.3 This leaves a balance of **£24,149** for future education capital projects. All future capital projects would be subject to a separate report to Cabinet.
- 4.4 The report has outlined details of how the first instalment of the DfE Special Provision Capital Fund allocation will be spent once received in summer 2018

5. Revenue Implications

- 5.1 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.

6.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1 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.

7.0 Background papers

None

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Appendices

The appendices to this report are available on the website with the papers published for Cabinet 15 February 2018.

This report was circulated to the following members prior to publication of the agenda for Cabinet on 15 February:

Cabinet Portfolio Holders:

Cllr Colin Hayfield - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning
Cllr Jeff Morgan - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Chair and Spokespersons

Cllr Yousef Dahmash – Chair
Cllr Chris Williams – Vice Chair
Cllr Jonathan Chilvers
Cllr Corinne Davies
Cllr Jerry Roodhouse

Item 3 Appendix 1

Current Basic Need as November Cabinet report		£451,842		
Q3 forecast changes to Basic Need Pot		-£18,000		
S106 funding used instead of Basic Need		£2,436,847		
	Subtotal	£2,870,689		
Projects in Cabinet Report	Total cost	Basic Need C2110	S106 C2070	DfE Special Provision Fund (to be received)
Water Orton Evergreen Unit	£650,000	£650,000		
The Coleshill School	£1,800,000	£1,800,000		
Kenilworth School and Sports College	£96,540	£96,540		
Barford St Peters Primary School	£230,000		£230,000	
Coleshill C of E Primary School	£300,000	£300,000		
Oak Wood Primary and Secondary Schools				£85,000
Total project	£3,076,540	£2,846,540	£230,000	£85,000
	Current Surplus/ (Deficit)	£24,149		
Basic Need Allocation 18/19 (Provisional)		£2,882,676		
	Surplus/ (Deficit)	£2,906,825		