

Schools Forum

October 11th 2013

Schools Capital Update

This report relates to both maintained and academy schools

Information only report

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 1.0 Note key schools related capital projects underway in 2013/14 as detailed in the report.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The schools capital programme had previously been shared with the Resources Policy Group. However, since this group has been disbanded, the intention is to offer the Schools Forum the opportunity to understand the decisions being made, by the local authority, essentially to meet the demand for school places in Warwickshire.

1.2 This report provides an update on new capital funding programmes and the latest position on the current schools capital programme. This is provided for information purposes only.

2.0 Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

2.1 Just over 3 years ago, the Government launched the Capital Review (led by Sebastian James) to look into all capital investment funded by the Department for Education (DfE). The review identified an urgent need to renew some school buildings that were in a poor state of repair.

2.2 In response to this, the Government set up the Priority School Building programme (PSBP) through a privately financed public private partnership (PPP) and Local Authorities with schools in urgent need of repair were invited to bid.

2.3 The Local Authority made a bid for a number of schools and last year was notified that Queen Elizabeth School, the secondary school in Atherstone, would be renewed (none of the other schools included on this bid were successful).

2.4 It has now been confirmed that Queen Elizabeth School will be procured as part of a batch which consists of 8 secondary schools from various Local Authorities across the West Midlands.

2.5 The Education Funding Agency (EFA) is leading on this programme and will manage the process throughout. It will be funded using a scheme called PF2, the government's new approach to private finance.

2.6 The EFA intend to go out to market in spring 2014 to find the contractor for this batch of works. It is expected that all PSBP schools will be delivered by the end of 2017.

3.0 Targeted Basic Need Programme

3.1 On 1st March 2013, the DfE launched the Targeted Basic Need programme to fund the provision of additional school places in areas experiencing basic need pressures. The Local Authority submitted a bid identifying 20 schools that it felt needed additional places.

3.2 On 18th July, the DfE confirmed that the Local Authorities bid was partly successful in that there was provisional capital funding for 9 school expansions and 1 new special school:

3.3 **New Special school for BESD & ASD pupils** – The Local Authority was successful in being awarded a capital allocation of £4,494,455. The plan is for this school to be built on part of the old Manor Park site in Nuneaton. The invitation for Academy proposals has already been published (all new schools are presumed to be set up as Academies per DfE advice).

3.4 The hope is that once this school is open the cost of providing out of county places will reduce.

3.5 **School expansions** – The Local Authority was successful in being awarded a capital allocation of £8,896,585. The 9 schools that this funding relates to and the number of new places to be provided are in the table overleaf:

School	Number of new places
Bishopton Primary School	210
Brooke School	30
Budbrooke Primary School	105
Henry Hinde Infant School	90
Lapworth CofE Primary School	49
Milverton Primary School	105
Paddox Primary School	210
St Michael's CofE Primary School	100
Welcombe Hills School	30
TOTAL	929

3.6 The works on these projects will need to be completed quickly. The new places are expected to be in place for either September 2014 or 2015.

3.7 The Local Authority also needs to address the needs of those schools that were unsuccessful in the Targeted Basic Need bid. These will be funded from Learning & Achievement unallocated capital funds.

3.8 These projects are waiting for Council for approval.

4.0 16-19 Demographic Growth Capital Fund

4.1 In addition to the Targeted Needs Bid, the Local Authority also submitted a bid against the 16-19 Demographic Growth Capital Fund. This fund is intended to support the costs of additional places for education and training for young people as a result of population growth, participation increase and/or the need for more places for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

4.2 The DfE recently confirmed the bid was successful and the Local Authority has been awarded £385,000 for Woodlands School. There will be further information on the plans for this project when a report is taken for member approval to add it to the capital programme.

5.0 General Capital Position

5.1 The overall capital position for schools is reported within the Organisational Health report. The latest report (2013/14 Quarter 1) went to Cabinet on 12th September 2013, item 3 (Learning & Achievement is appendix F):

<http://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2672/Committee/468/Default.aspx>

5.2 The main points to note are:

- A £375,000 increase in costs on The Willows expansion project
- The addition of DfE funding of £686,000 for the provision of additional funded places for vulnerable 2 year olds (reported to Cabinet 14th February 2013).

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The pressure on the Local Authority to provide additional pupil places means there will be a significant movement on the Learning & Achievement capital programme. The additional funding that has recently come in from the DfE helps the Local Authority make the best of its available resources.

6.2 Alongside this, it is also hoped that once the new special school is operational, out of county costs will reduce.

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