

## **Schools Forum**

**March 13th 2014**

### **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 for 2014/15 as detailed in the report.

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 This report provides an update on the position last reported to the Schools Forum in December. This is provided for information purposes only.

#### **2.0 Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)**

2.1 The Local Authority has made the decision that the additional 150 places that were to be added to the scheme at Queen Elizabeth Schools, Atherstone will no longer go ahead at this point in time. Instead, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) managed 'PFI' scheme to build a new school will progress at the original 600 places and will be delivered for September 2017. This means the £1,750,000 added will become available to reallocate.

2.2 If the proposed housing development in the area does go ahead and there is a need to expand the school in the future then this will be addressed as a separate issue when appropriate.

#### **3.0 Targeted Basic Need Programme**

3.1 The original grant conditions of the Targeted Basic Need funding required bids to be made for only those schools judged by Ofsted to be either 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Therefore, if any school in receipt of Targeted Basic Need funding moves into any lower category, then the Local Authority is able to swap the funds with another school in the area.

3.2 As such, it is no longer appropriate to expand Budbrooke Primary school (Warwick area) and officers are now investigating alternative options to ensure the grant funding is not lost.

3.3 In terms of the project to build a new AEN school, the Local Authority has only just been allocated a sponsor which has delayed, to a degree, the work programme. However, approval has been given to use the Manor Park site in Nuneaton for this new school and works are underway to refine the specification of the pupils who will attend the school. The target completion date is September 2015.

#### **4.0 Other school expansions**

4.1 To continue the policy of not expanding schools that are not judged “outstanding” or “good”, one of the school expansion schemes listed in the last Schools Forum report will be changing. Milby Primary school (Nuneaton) was to be expanded using Local Authority capital but officers are now looking at alternative options to meet the need. The £1,900,000 funding added to the programme for this scheme will be reallocated.

#### **5.0 Universal Infant Free School Meals**

5.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the Department of Education (DfE) made the first of two announcements on capital allocations for 2014/15. This included an allocation of £1,025,172 to help infant and primary schools improve facilities to enable them to provide the Universal Infant Free School Meal policy.

5.2 Work has started within the authority to identify the needs of all maintained schools ready for implementation in September and progress on this will be reported to the next Schools Forum meeting.

#### **6.0 2014/15 capital allocations**

6.1 The following table summarises the capital allocations due to the Local Authority for 2014/15, as announced by the DfE in December 2013 and January 2014.

Universal Infant Free School Meals	£1,025,172
Basic Need	£3,465,289
Maintenance	£5,449,649
Devolved Formula Capital (provisional figure)	£1,059,831

6.2 Included in the DfE announcement was Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17. Warwickshire was one of only nine authorities in the country to receive no allocation for these future years. Local Authority officers have contacted the DfE to express concern over this lack of funding. Any development in this area will be reported to the next meeting.

## 7.0 General Capital Position

7.1 The overall capital position for schools is reported within the Organisational Health report. The latest report (2013/14 Quarter 3) went to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, item 3 (Learning & Achievement is appendix F):

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/2676/Committee/468/Default.aspx>

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