

Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property on 18 June 2021

Quinton Primary School – Access to S106 Funds for Improvements

Portfolio Holder	Peter Butlin
Date of decision	18 June 2021
	Signed 

Decision taken

The Portfolio holder for Finance and Property approve the addition of the scheme for improvements at Quinton Primary School to the Capital Programme at an estimated cost of £106,000 to be funded from section 106 receipts (£198,000) and a contribution by the School (£2,000)

The Portfolio holder has delegated authority to add schemes to the Capital Programme where the value is less than £2,000,000 and the scheme is fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or from revenue. Funding from developer contributions can only be used for a limited range of purposes specified in the relevant agreement. The Infrastructure Planning Lead has confirmed that the use of the funding for these purposes is in accordance with the terms of the relevant section 106 obligations

Reasons for decision

Quinton Primary is a small rural school in South Warwickshire. There has been building in the local area in recent years and the school has increased its PAN from 15 to 30. There has also been pressure on early years provision which has increased from 13 to 25

Approximately £200k S106 funding is specifically available for Quinton Primary School and the school would like to use some of this to do some much needed improvements

S106 funds totalling £106,000 has been approved by Capital Access and Organisation Board for works at Quinton Primary School to provide the delivery of a safe outdoor space for EYFS, an extension to the front playground, refurbishment of toilets in the Nursery and conversion of former entrance foyer to create a meeting and intervention room.

Background information

The outdoor area that is accessed by Nursery and Reception is not fit for purpose and the amount of actual useable space is limited, mainly due to poor surface quality, lack of any kind of weather protection and danger of injuries to children because of the lack of specific child-friendly resources and structures. Although the school has raised funding in the past and refurbished with help from their PTA, it is “past its sell-by date” and the constant effort to try and make do and repair is increasingly difficult. The school can only allow a small group of children out at any one time and they need extra supervision to keep them safe. With a professionally produced area, every inch would be maximised and more children could access it as a genuine extension of the indoor classroom into the outdoors, giving all the EYFS children a wider breadth of exciting learning opportunities. This would allow the school to accept more Nursery children up to their limit of 25 and benefit both EYFS children and staff as they reduce the risks to a much more manageable level

The front playground was only ever designed with a PAN of 15. It becomes very dangerous particularly when the weather is poor and they have to use the playground for all children in the school at break and lunch times. Currently the school has to limit children’s movements in order to stay safe. The extension would give the school a greater level of safety and the ability to use the playground area in sections if necessary.

The current toilet facilities for Nursery date back to the early fifties when the school was built. They are not fit for purpose.

The original design of the school did not include any intervention space. Particularly with the gaps in knowledge caused by the Coronavirus and lockdown, intervention is absolutely crucial. Currently, intervention is taking place in corridors, the hall, the (very cramped) server room and wherever a member of staff can find a space. The quality suffers. The dual use of this room is also to accommodate the wide range of external support services that the school uses for more specific work with both staff and children

Financial implications

Funding breakdown

Basic Need funding:	£0
Developer contribution funding:	£106,000.00
Other funding (please state source below):	£2,000.00
Other funding source (if applicable):	Contribution from school

Environmental implications

The improvements will enhance the ability of children to attend a school closer to their home, involving reduced travel distances, and the planning process is designed to ensure the sustainability of development proposals.

Report Author	Lead Officer – Nikki Daly Education Capital, Sufficiency and Transport Lead Commissioner (seconded)
Assistant Director	Ian Budd
Lead Director	Mark Ryder
Lead Member	LeadMember

Urgent matter?	<i>No</i>
Confidential or exempt?	<i>No</i>
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	<i>No</i>

List of background papers (If applicable)

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board –

Legal – Ian Marriott

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality –

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors –