

Cabinet

12 May 2022

Education Schools Capital Programme 2022-23

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Recommends to Council that £8.630 million be added to the capital programme to deliver the schemes at The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone and Myton School, Warwick, to be funded from Department for Education grant and third party contributions.
2. Approves the previously agreed allocation of £4.753m in respect of Etone College to deliver the amended scheme set out in Section 3, and approves the addition to the capital programme of £0.874m funded from the Department for Education grant and third party contributions to deliver the remaining schemes outlines in Section 3.
3. Authorises, subject to Council's agreement to the required addition to the capital programme, the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education, to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources, or (where the scheme is school led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends proposals for allocating resources in the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to the specific projects set out in Section 3. The proposal includes funding from developer contributions.
- 1.2 Proposals to increase the number of pupils admitted at schools across a wide area of Warwickshire are explained within this report. Further information relating to how the Council plans for and anticipates the growth in demand for school places, is laid out in the [Education Sufficiency Strategy](#) and [Annual Sufficiency Update](#).
- 1.3 All proposed education capital projects are considered against independently published third-party data to benchmark the cost to the Council of providing school places and ensuring effective allocation of resources.

- 1.4 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 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.
- 1.5 Where possible, and where economies of scale allow, expansions and building works will also address other factors such as: encouraging infant and junior to become primary, pre-school requirements in an area, providing specialist SEN provision, and any outstanding DDA requirements.
- 1.6 The current available funding is set out in Section 2.
- 1.7 There has recently been a significant increase in construction cost inflation with contributing factors such as HS2, EU exit and to a lesser extent Covid-19 impacting the market. This is resulting in both labour and material shortages resulting in higher tendered prices than have been usual in recent years. The likely ongoing impact of HS2 and EU exit over the next few years mean that these pressures are anticipated to continue. As a result, contractors are factoring in both known and likely future cost increases into their tenders. Further, inflation provision within contracts may mean price adjustments over the life of longer term projects.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The total estimated cost of the proposals in this report is £9.504m. The spend will be funded from £0.116m of developer funding, £0.293m from other third-parties (schools, early years providers and academy trusts) and £9.095m of grant funding from the DfE.
- 2.2 Allocations of grant funding from the Department for Education for the 2022/23 financial year were notified to the authority in February 2021. Allocations are paid annually and are not available for expenditure until the start of the financial year for which they are received. The proposals in this report can be funded from within the remaining unallocated DfE capital grant allocations available in 2022/23, as shown in the table below.

	Education Capital Funds £m	Proposed Use £m	Remaining DfE Allocations £m
Balance of Unallocated Education Capital Funds	20.632	8.395	12.237
High Needs Capital Allocation	8.870	0.700	8.170

- 2.3 Where the use of developer contributions is outlined in section 3 it has been confirmed that those funds have been received and that the outlined use is in line with the obligations set out in the relevant S106 agreement. Agreements are also in place for the other third-party funding needed to deliver the proposals set out in the report.
- 2.4 The proposals in this report use £9.095m of DfE capital grant. To maximise the flexibility in the use of overall education capital resources and to ensure school places are available when needed, it is sometimes necessary to temporarily fund capital spend from the DfE Capital Grant in advance of relevant developer contributions for a project being received. If any developer contributions relevant to the schemes in the report are received, the DfE Grant funding will be released back into the wider Education capital programme.

3. Proposals for addition to the 2022/2023 Education Capital Programme

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to allocate the following additional Education capital resources to the capital programme:

Bridgetown Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon

- 3.2 The project is to create fit-for-purpose community and shared facilities, at Bridgetown Primary School through improvements of the school hall and grounds.
- 3.3 The school hall and grounds are shared by the families of pupils at school, the staff and the many that visit for school events. In addition, the school hire out their hall and outdoor learning area to allow other organisations to provide activities and services to the wider community. The school hall is currently dated, dark, noisy and not a positive space for the school community. The school plan to add doors to close off hall storage areas, sand, lighten and protect the existing parquet flooring, install motorised blinds, fit a new interactive screen and add fencing round the Early Years area.
- 3.4 The school would like to create a safe and secure environment for pupils and visitors to enjoy their grounds, with clear definition between areas. New fencing will facilitate the oversight of pupils when outdoors and create specific areas for groups to enjoy. The enhancements to the hall would create a light, bright and welcoming space into which the school will be proud to welcome all.
- 3.5 The total cost of the project is £0.032 million. The school are funding £0.003 million of the total cost, and it is proposed to provide £0.029 million developer funding available for expenditure at Bridgetown Primary School.

- 3.6 Cabinet are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.032 million funded as follows:

Developer funding	£0.029 million
School funding	£0.003 million

Etone College, Nuneaton

- 3.7 In December 2020, Cabinet approved a proposal to allocate £4.753m to a project that included the re-provision of a classroom block, refurbishment of existing general teaching classroom to provide additional science laboratory, dining hall and staff room reconfiguration and refurbishment with associated outdoor areas and landscaping. This project is proposed to meet the demand for secondary school places in Nuneaton by expanding Etone College by 1 form of entry (FE) (150 places). Subsequently, the school's Trust have submitted a new proposal more in line with their priorities around quality teaching accommodation, which still fulfils the remit of facilitating the 1FE expansion but focuses more on classrooms and ancillary spaces.
- 3.8 The way the Trust purposes general classrooms as science classrooms will address the need for additional science labs. Reconfiguring the school day with rolling lunchtimes currently manages the dining space issue. The Trust is moving away from using staff rooms with a reconfigured school day and updated teachers' timetables leaving them unnecessary. They would also knock down a deteriorating 1950s block.
- 3.9 Etone College will have admitted additional pupils in all five year groups by September 2022. These extended and enhanced facilities are required to continue to effectively manage and accommodate an increase in pupil numbers at the school.
- 3.10 Etone College is currently the smallest secondary school in Nuneaton and an expansion to 6FE will help to ensure the school remains sustainable longer term.
- 3.11 Cabinet are therefore asked to agree the proposal to use the money previously allocated to Etone College for the amended scheme.

Southam St James Primary School, Southam

- 3.11 Southam St James is undertaking a project on their reception classroom to increase the number of toilets, re-organise large features of the room to improve sightlines and floor space, replacing some walls, doors and windows with folding doors to allow easier access to outdoor space, and extending the classroom. The school is requesting funding for the classroom extension and to ensure the other works are of a high and sustainable quality.
- 3.12 The reception classroom currently has only one toilet. Toilets for this age should be accessed at will, so ideally 30 children should have access to more

than one toilet. In addition to this, the school has, and will have, children with an EHCP who have more complex toileting needs, which means the one toilet is in use for longer periods of time.

- 3.13 The current classroom size is more than 11m² smaller than government guidance. Children with EHCPs often have a 1-2-1 Teaching Assistant, meaning another adult in the room. The additional adults in the smaller classroom mean the room is getting very crowded. With the increase in children with SEND generally, at least one child with an EHCP is likely become a regular occurrence.
- 3.14 The works will lead to improved health and safety, increased sufficiency and suitability for all children as sight lines will be improved around the classroom, free flow access to outside areas will be enabled, and floor space and numbers of toilets will be increased.
- 3.15 The total cost of the initial phase of the project is £0.062 million. It is proposed to contribute £0.057 million of developer funding that has been collected for providing, extending, improving or altering facilities for primary education in the local area.
- 3.16 Cabinet are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.080 million funded as follows:
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| Developer funding | £0.030 million |
| Funding from Southam St James | £0.050 million |

Sunbeams Nursery based at Radford Semele CofE School, Leamington Spa

- 3.17 Sunbeams Nursery is based on the site of Radford Semele CofE Primary School. The project involves creating a new and improved outdoor classroom area where children can extend their learning outdoors in all weathers.
- 3.18 The setting is the only pre-school to service the village of Radford Semele and surrounding areas. The current outdoor area restricts the number of child places that can be offered.
- 3.19 The project will enable the preschool to fill its capacity and offer 10 additional preschool places.
- 3.20 The total cost of the project is £0.062 million. The school are funding £0.005 million of the total cost and it is proposed to provide £0.057 million developer funding available for preschool provision in Radford Semele to increase capacity.
- 3.21 Cabinet are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.062 million funded as follows:
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| Developer funding | £0.057 million |
| Nursery funding | £0.005 million |

The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone

- 3.22 The Queen Elizabeth Academy is the only secondary school in Atherstone to the East of North Warwickshire. The demand for school places in Atherstone and the surrounding area has been rising over the past three years with a shortfall in places forecast to continue for the next seven years.
- 3.23 The school offered an additional 30 places above their Published Admission Number (PAN) in September 2021 and have offered above their PAN again for September 2022. A permanent solution is now required to enable the school to continue to meet demand.
- 3.24 The Academy Transformation Trust have put together a proposal to provide a new two storey modular classroom block containing 7 general teaching classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate a 1 form entry expansion (150 places) increasing the school's PAN from 120 to 150.
- 3.25 The total cost of the project including hard play space, temporary accommodation, highways requirements and 10% contingency is £2.500 million. The Academy Transformation Trust will be contributing £0.235 million to the project.
- 3.26 Cabinet are asked to recommend that Council agree the proposal to allocate £2.500 million for the expansion of The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone, funded as follows:
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| Education Capital Resources | £2.265 million |
| The Academy Transformation Trust | £0.235 million |

Myton School, Warwick

- 3.27 Funding is requested for the delivery of a new self-contained 18 classroom 6th form teaching block, including dining facilities, on the site of Myton School along with external works necessary to allow future increased 6th form numbers at Myton School. In the short-term the facility will be able to provide accommodation for Oakley Grove School year 7 to operate on Myton School site for the 2023/24 academic year until the new school is complete.
- 3.28 It is proposed the delivery of this project will be commissioned and managed by Myton School directly. Quality assurance will need to be provided by the County Council.
- 3.29 The report to Cabinet in September 2021, when the Oakley Grove funding was approved, outlined that sufficiency of post-16 provision across the wider local area was to be reviewed and opportunities for expansion to meet projected numbers would include other local post-16 provision.
- 3.30 The proposed project at Myton School will provide up to an additional 160 post 16 places in the Leamington and Warwick area.

- 3.31 The proposed 6th form accommodation is self-contained from the main Myton School buildings at the front of the site and is comprised of 18 classrooms, dining space, servery kitchen, toilets, and staff offices.
- 3.32 It is estimated that between 180-210 places are required for Year 7 pupils in the area from September 2023. Approximately 30-60 places are also required for Reception pupils. These are currently being reviewed separately to the solution for Year 7 pupils. Once built, the new Oakley Grove School will continue to meet the demand for year 7 and reception places in the area.
- 3.33 The new teaching block will be sufficient to accommodate 180 Year 7 pupils for an academic year before it converts to its long term use as the Myton School 6th form. The location on site allows for easy separation from the main Myton School to ensure both schools can operate independently. In addition, Myton School have advised the tennis courts adjacent to the proposed new build could be allocated for Oakley Grove School's outside/playground space and timetabling amended to allow full use of the existing sports facilities for PE.
- 3.34 The total cost of the project is £6.130 million. It is proposed to fund the project from Education Capital Resources. Given the challenges with increasing construction costs the main contractor has been engaged by the school at this early stage to ensure costing and programme are reflective of the current construction industry situation and therefore realistic and robust as at this time.
- 3.35 Cabinet are asked to recommend that Council agree the proposal to allocate £6.130 million for 6th form accommodation at Myton School, Warwick, funded as follows:
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| Education Capital Resources | £6.130 million |
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Disability and Access Block Header, Countywide

- 3.36 Children with additional needs and levels of support are entitled to a full education and have the same rights of admission to school as their non-disabled peers. This means that no child should be denied admission or prevented from taking up a place in school because arrangements for their accessibility needs have not been made.
- 3.37 Under the Equality Act there is a duty to make reasonable adjustments to enable access. Whilst some of the projects can have a significant cost, this is offset against a longer-term investment in school access, whilst enabling children and young people to attend their local community school saving on school transport costs.

- 3.38 It is proposed that £700,000 of the High Needs' Capital Allocation is allocated to a Block Header to enable the necessary adaptations and capital works to be carried out to ensure that pupils with physical disabilities, sensory and/or complex health access needs, are able to access mainstream education and have their specific needs met. These adaptations could include "changing place" hygiene facility, outdoor ramping, widening of door thresholds, and the improving of acoustics within a classroom. The budget has been derived using estimates of the capital works known to be required and consideration of historic trend data to forecast future requirements as further school placements are made.
- 3.39 Cabinet are asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.700 million, funded as follows:
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| High Needs Capital Allocation | £0.700 million |
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4 Environmental Implications

- 4.1 Where feasible, the County Council will look to use modern methods of construction to achieve efficiencies and benefits particularly in terms of time, cost, and the environment.
- 4.2 Environmental risk assessments, together with mitigation statements to reduce any potential environmental impacts, are required for any capital project.
- 4.3 Larger scale projects will follow design objectives to ensure revenue costs are reduced and sustainable schemes are delivered within the financial envelope. This will be done incorporating design features to minimise heating and cooling demands, the careful selection of building materials, air tightness, and the inclusion of renewable energy features where economically feasible.
- 4.4 Proposed schemes aim to ensure the sufficiency of, and accessibility to, provision in local settings avoiding the need to travel further afield to access education or childcare provision.

5 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval, those schemes requiring Council approval will be submitted to Council for approval on 17 May 2022.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Cllr Kate Rolfe, Cllr Jeff Clarke, Cllr Andy Crump, Cllr Wallace Redford, Cllr Mejar Singh, Cllr Parking Singh Birdi

Other members: Cllr Heather Timms, Cllr Peter Butlin