

County Council

17 May 2022

Education Schools Capital Programme 2022-23

Recommendation(s)

1. That Council agrees the addition of £8.630 million 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.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends proposals for allocating resources from within the Education (Schools) Capital Programme to the specific projects set out in Section 3 and requests that the projects be added to the capital programme.
- 1.2 The Council's constitution requires that Council approves the addition to the Capital Programme of projects with a value in excess of £2,000,000.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The total estimated cost of the proposals in this report is £8.630m. The spend will be funded from £0.235m from other third-parties (schools, early years providers and academy trusts) and £8.395m 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 |

- 2.3 The proposals in this report use £8.395m 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 The Council is asked to add the following to the capital programme:

The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 Council is asked to approve the proposal to allocate £2.500 million for the expansion of The Queen Elizabeth Academy, Atherstone, funded as follows:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Education Capital Resources | £2.265 million |
| The Academy Transformation Trust | £0.235 million |

Myton School, Warwick

- 3.7 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.

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 The proposed project at Myton School will provide up to an additional 160 post 16 places in the Leamington and Warwick area.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 Council is asked to approve the proposal to allocate £6.130 million for 6th form accommodation at Myton School, Warwick, funded in full from Education Capital Resources

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 Background Information

- 5.1 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 the **Annual Sufficiency Update**
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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. The proposed schemes make improvements to existing schools.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.

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

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Other members: Cllr Heather Timms, Cllr Peter Butlin