

Portfolio Holder Decision

Addition of schemes at Bilton School and Stratford upon Avon School to the Education Capital Programme 2023/24

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property
Date of decision	14 July 2023
	Signed

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 The Portfolio holder for Finance and Property approves the addition of the scheme for improvements at Stratford upon Avon School to the Capital Programme at an estimated cost of £0.308 million to be funded from section 106 receipts.

- 1.2 The Portfolio holder for Finance and Property approves the addition of the scheme for improvements at Bilton School to the Capital Programme at an estimated cost of £0.083 million to be funded from section 106 receipts.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1. 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 revenue. Funding from developer contributions can only be used for a limited range of purposes specified in the relevant agreement. The Section 106 monitoring officer has confirmed that the use of the funding for these purposes is in accordance with the terms of the relevant Section 106 obligations.

- 2.2. Rugby continues to experience a large amount of housing development, there is a fluctuating shortfall of circa two forms of entry (60 places) across the next seven years. It has been identified by WCC Education Sufficiency that additional places are needed for the 2023/24 academic year to ensure sufficient places are available in the local area.

- 2.3. Stratford-upon-Avon School is currently being expanded by two forms of entry (300 places) to meet the existing and future demand for school places in the Stratford area

3. Background information

Stratford upon Avon School

- 3.1. The all-weather pitch at Stratford upon Avon School is used by Stratford Hockey Club as their home base. The school are strongly committed to playing a part in developing sport locally, for the community and for their students. Maintenance of the pitch is essential to facilitate the planned extension of their outreach work into the community including young people at schools in the local area and to support the increasing number of pupils at the school.
- 3.2. The condition of the 15-year-old artificial grass surface at Stratford upon Avon School had deteriorated and, despite investing in repairs, it ultimately required replacement. Stratford upon Avon School undertook this work in 2018 as it was an urgent project, in advance of developer funding associated with a housing development approved in December 2015 becoming available at a later date.
- 3.3. The scope of the works included the removal of the existing surface, assessment to make good or replace the existing 15mm shockpad and level to required Sport England specification, the replacement of rebound boards and fencing where required, and the overlay of the shockpad with a new EDEL integration sand obscured Hockey surface. The total cost of the works was £0.228 million to which a contribution from Sport England Hockey of £0.050 million was made. The work was tendered for by an external consultant under a national agreement on behalf of England Hockey.
- 3.4. Therefore, the school are looking to secure £0.178 million of developer funding received by WCC from an agreement which makes specific reference to the resurfacing of an all-weather pitch at the school and the refurbishment and enhancement of gym facilities. The total amount available under this agreement is £0.308 million. It is proposed to use the remaining amount of £0.130 million as a contribution towards surface improvements to a smaller tarmac multi use games area sports hall and gym flooring, and on the development of a small climbing wall facility in the gym. This is planned for 2023/24 and will be subject to a compliant procurement exercise. Costs will be reimbursed to the school on production of invoices for the works.
- 3.5. Section 106 funds have to be used solely for their prescribed purpose. The Section 106 monitoring officer has confirmed that the use of the funding for the purposes set out in this report is in accordance with the terms of the relevant Section 106 obligation, namely – “For the purposes of providing additional places through modifications to existing facilities, specifically the resurfacing of the all-weather pitch at Stratford School and to refurbish and enhance the gym facilities at Stratford School - all secondary”.

Bilton School

- 3.6. Bilton School have agreed to offer places to an additional 30 year 7 pupils for

September 2023. In order to accommodate these pupils and make provision for further increases in pupil numbers the school proposes to reconfigure a number of rooms across the site to create new teaching spaces.

- 3.7. The estimate of £0.83 million for the building works has been compiled by a reputable local company which Stowe Valley MAT have used successfully on previous projects. If funding is granted, the MAT will conduct a compliant procurement to ensure value for money is achieved. The required capital works include building, decoration, flooring, furniture and asbestos removal.

4. Financial implications

4.1 Stratford upon Avon School – the £0.308 million requested will come from available section 106 funds for the purposes of preserving the facilities for future growth of the school.

4.2 Bilton School – the £0.083 million requested will come from available section 106 funds for the purposes of increasing pupil numbers.

5. Environmental implications

5.1 At Bilton School the project involved reconfiguring and improving existing space rather than increasing the footprint of the building which will mitigate some environmental impact. Any work undertaken will meet current Building Regulations which has substantially been amended in June 2022. The changes to regulations have significantly strengthened sustainable construction methods and whilst not solely changed for environmental purpose, they ensure that future construction recognises environmental challenges.

5.2 In addition, the creation of additional places in the local area aims to reduce travel distance and time for families and improving existing facilities preserves the facilities for future growth of usage and expansion of school numbers in a sustainable way.

5.3 With regard to the works at Stratford upon Avon School, these have already been undertaken and therefore the allocation of funds to these projects will not have any significant environmental impact.

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Assistant Director	Johnny Kyriacou, Director for Education
Strategic Director	Nigel Minns, Executive Director for People
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?

No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Butlin

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Guy Darvill

Finance – Brian Smith

Equality – Joanna Kemp

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Warwick, Birdi, Boad, Philipps and W Roberts

Local Member(s): Fradgley and Butlin