

Cabinet

14 December 2023

Education Capital Programme 2023/24

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Recommends to Council the addition of £2.868m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Warton Nethersole CofE Primary School to be funded by developer contributions and the Department for Education (DfE) Basic Need Grant.
2. Approves the proposals for alterations at St John's Primary School:
 - a) To increase the capacity from one form entry (210 places) to two form entry (420 places).
 - b) To establish specialist resourced provision (SRP) for up to 14 learners with SEND.and recommends to Council the addition of £6.335m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at St John's Primary School which will be funded from developer contributions and the DfE Basic Need grant.
3. Approves the addition to the Education Capital Programme of £0.328m to deliver the proposed schemes at Shottery St Andrews CofE Primary School and Cubbington CofE Primary School
4. Approves the increase of pupils on roll at the specialist resourced provisions at Paddox Primary School and Water Orton Primary School as outlined in section 3.
5. Subject to Council's agreement to the required additions to the Capital Programme, delegates authority to the Executive Director for People, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, to invite tenders and enter into the appropriate contracts or (where the scheme is school led) to make the necessary funding arrangements for these schemes on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Executive Director for Resources.

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.

- 1.2 The Education Capital Programme is driven by the long-term strategic planning outlined in the Education Sufficiency Strategy and the [annual sufficiency update](#) to ensure Warwickshire can meet its statutory duty to provide school places.
- 1.3 Forecasts of expected future pupil numbers are produced and published annually and consider current and expected future population growth. This includes growth from approved housing development. Where these forecasts predict a shortfall of school places, and local schools do not have enough physical space to admit the expected numbers of additional children, education capital projects are developed to provide those additional places.
- 1.4 Projects are prioritised and brought forward according to the date the additional places will be required, as evidenced in the pupil forecast data, combined with the expected time required to design and deliver each scheme.
- 1.5 With the number of EHCPs in Warwickshire increasing annually, there is forecast to be insufficient capacity in Warwickshire state-maintained specialist provision to accommodate demand. Alongside proposals to increase state-maintained special school places in Nuneaton and Warwick, the Council also plans to expand specialist resourced provision within state funded primary and secondary schools across the County. Therefore, as part of proposals to deliver new schools or school expansions, the inclusion of resourced provision will also be considered where feasible.
- 1.6 The expected education capital requirements associated with proposed strategic housing development across the county are identified as part of the District and Borough Local Plan process. As strategic housing developments progress across the county, and planning permission is granted, the pupil forecast data is updated and the prioritisation of education capital projects amended as needed to ensure sufficient school places exist to meet the expected demand. Availability of education capital resources limits the ability to deliver additional school places in advance of the requirement for those places being evidenced in the pupil forecast data.
- 1.7 Whilst the issue of sufficiency of provision must take priority, it is important to ensure that schools that are not expanding are able to continue to meet existing sufficiency needs and to operate within their existing accommodation. Details of proposed schemes to make improvements to existing settings are set out in section 3.
- 1.8 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 SEND provision, and any outstanding disability access requirements
- 1.9 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.

1.10 The current available funding is set out in Section 2.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The Basic Need capital grant allocation for 2023/24 is £40.850 million, of which £8.550 million remains unallocated. The Department for Education has confirmed the Council will receive £21.366 million in 2024/25 and zero in 2025/26.

2.2 The project costs outlined within this report total £9.531 million of which £8.671 million is from the Basic Need Fund, £0.824 million is from developer contributions and £0.036 million is from other funding. These allocations will result in a zero 2023/24 Basic Need balance and use £0.121 million of the allocation for 2024/25.

2.3 The Service holds resources for school investment which are not currently included in the approved Capital Programme, this is largely from the following:

- confirmed yet unallocated Basic Need grant to be received up to 2025/26,
- other grants/contributions held for specific purposes,
- developer contributions currently held but unallocated; and
- one historically earmarked capital receipt

Available Resources (unallocated)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Basic Need Grant	8,550	21,366	0	29,916
Basic Need Funding Swaps 2023/24	4,095	0	0	4,095
High Needs Grant	269	0	0	269
Schools Condition Allocation 2022/23	2,197	0	0	2,197
Schools Condition Allocation 2023/24	2,082	0	0	2,082
Special Provision Fund	64	0	0	64
s.106*	18,419	0	0	18,419
Earmarked Capital Receipts	2,113	0	0	2,113
	37,789	21,366	0	59,155

1.1. The larger scale capital projects at Warton Nethersole CofE Primary School and St John's Primary School are at a stage which allows further design and development and surveys to be undertaken to increase the level of cost certainty. Contingency and risk allowance are included in the project budgets to provide some mitigation against further cost increases.

1.2. Pupil places in the specialist resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that pupils additional learning needs can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools.

A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

- 1.3. The establishment of specialist resourced provision is part of the strategy to mitigate the overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allowing learners to be placed in more cost-effective provision, and ensuring that, where possible, more learners with an EHCP can be taught alongside, and within, a mainstream school environment.

3. Proposals for addition to the 2023/24 Education Capital Programme

Warton Nethersole CofE Primary School

- 3.1 Warton Nethersole CofE Primary School has an Ofsted rating of 'Good' with 157 places for children aged 4-11 years.
- 3.2 In the last few years housing development in Warton has increased the number of pupils on roll at the school. Over 200 homes across three sites have been approved in Warton and whilst some of the development has been completed the majority is due to be completed over the next couple of years. This development could yield circa 7 additional pupils per year group.
- 3.3 In-year applications for children moving into Warton where the local primary school is full in certain year groups will be offered a place at the next nearest school which would likely have home to school transport implications.
- 3.4 To ensure sufficient school places in the village of Warton as the housing development builds out it is proposed to increase the capacity of Warton Nethersole CofE Primary to enable the school to increase their PAN from 22 to 30 (8 per year group).
- 3.5 In order to facilitate the expansion, it is proposed to provide a new modular building containing two additional classrooms with ancillary space. Further internal alterations to the main school building are proposed to create additional hall space, library and intervention space. Feasibility work has been undertaken in collaboration with the school and Birmingham Diocesan Multi-academy Trust and estimated the cost of the capital works at £2.868 million.
- 3.6 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £2.868 million funded as follows and recommend to Full Council its addition to the Capital Programme:

Basic Need Funding	£2.794 million
--------------------	----------------

Developer Funding	£0.074 million
-------------------	----------------

St Johns Primary School, Kenilworth

- 3.7 St Johns Primary School is a 1FE school with an Ofsted rating of 'Good', with 210 places for children aged 4-11 years.
- 3.8 In 2021, two large strategic sites were approved in Kenilworth Town totalling 1400 homes. These are due to start completions from 2023. Some smaller scale development is currently building out/being occupied which is starting to have pressure on places. Forecasts for the Kenilworth area indicate reduced capacity from 2024. Therefore, additional permanent capacity is needed to ensure future reception cohorts and children moving into Kenilworth can be accommodated at a primary school in the Town.
- 3.9 In recent years, St John's Primary School have accommodated several additional temporary reception and in-year classes within their existing accommodation at the request of the County Council to alleviate the pressure on school places in the local area. It is proposed to build on this existing capacity and increase the number of permanent places at the school by 210 pupils. This would mean St John's Primary School would move from a one form entry (1FE) primary school (210 pupils) to a two-form entry (2FE) primary school (420 pupils).
- 3.10 It is also proposed to establish educational provision for children with special educational needs in the form of specialist resourced provision for up to 14 primary aged pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) needs. The location of a specialist resourced provision within Kenilworth will meet the need for more localised resourced provision for SEMH pupils within a growing area of Warwick District and is in line with the Council's plans to expand resourced provision across Warwickshire's state funded primary and secondary schools.
- 3.11 The capital works to create the required accommodation would involve three separate extensions to different parts of the existing school building to create 4 additional classrooms and the teaching space for the specialist resourced provision. Further internal refurbishment and remodelling will create two further classrooms, intervention/group space and ancillary space.
- 3.12 As part of the process to increase the number of school places at St Johns Primary School, a 4-week statutory consultation was carried out with key stakeholders between 2nd October and 29th October 2023. 92 responses were received. 27% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 17% provided a neutral response. 55% of respondents disagreed with the proposal to increase capacity.
- 3.13 With regards to establishing a specialist resourced provision 59% agreed with the proposal, 16% provided a neutral response, and 25% disagreed with the proposal.
- 3.14 Over half the respondents disagreed with the proposal to expand the school to 2FE. Of those disagreeing with the proposal, 75% were not a parent or

carer of a pupil at the school. The reasons provided were largely focused around highways and the potential impact of the increase in traffic on parking, traffic management and road safety on roads surrounding the school. Approximately 69% of respondents mentioned a highways factor in their response. Other reasons mentioned included the impact of the additional build on the school's external space, and the impact of the building work on local residents and the pupil's learning environment. A summary of the consultation responses is available in Appendix 1.

- 3.15 Of those respondents that agreed with or provided a neutral response to the proposal, over half highlighted concerns relating to an increase in traffic and the potential measures that could be put in place to mitigate the potential impact. Other reasons in agreement with the proposal included the need for more mainstream and SEND places in Kenilworth but also the need to limit the impact on existing schools with the introduction of this additional capacity. A summary of the consultation responses is available in Appendix 1.
- 3.16 As highlighted by the consultation responses, WCC recognise that this proposal is likely to have an impact on the highways infrastructure around the school and the concerns that this presents to local residents. However, given its location to current housing development, existing site and build capacity and the likelihood that highways challenges and associated opposition would be presented if an alternative existing school site was proposed, it is recommended that the proposal continues forward to ensure the sufficiency of school places in Kenilworth town can be maintained.
- 3.17 As part of the feasibility process, the project team has engaged with Highways and Road Safety through the pre application process to ensure that the required transport surveys and assessments are undertaken to inform a potential planning application. If approved by Cabinet, the highways impact of the expansion would be considered through the statutory planning process where there will be further opportunity for local residents and the community to provide comment or feedback.
- 3.18 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £6.335 million funded as follows and recommend to Full Council its addition to the Capital Programme:

Basic Need Funding	£5.838 million
Developer Funding	£0.497 million

Shottery St Andrew's CofE Primary School

- 3.19 Shottery St Andrew's CofE is a 0.5 FE primary school with 105 places for children aged 4-11.

- 3.20 The school is finding it increasingly difficult to operate an effective teaching and learning environment within the existing accommodation, particularly with regards to sufficient intervention and one to one space.
- 3.21 The condition of the brick-built grade 2 listed building part of the school is deteriorating with significant issues as identified from recent survey reports and there is no dedicated hall/dining space.
- 3.22 It is proposed that a temporary classroom be provided on a hard standing area adjacent to existing modular classrooms to allow easy access to toilets. The classroom would be in place for two years from Spring 2024 (subject to planning) to January 2026. There are proposals at an early stage looking at relocating the school to a new school site as part of the Shottery West development in Stratford upon Avon. However, in the interim, this proposal looks to ensure appropriate accommodation is in place to meet the education needs of children on the existing school site.
- 3.23 It is proposed to use developer funding available for improvements to the existing school to fund the additional teaching space.
- 3.24 Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.215 million funded as follows:

Developer Funding	£0.215 million
-------------------	----------------

Cubbington CofE Primary School (Warwick District)

- 3.25. Cubbington CofE Primary School are wanting to re purpose a Victorian 'Old School' building on the school site consisting of 2 former classrooms and former caretakers residence, to enable delivery of nursery provision offering 24 places at any one time supporting the increase for early years / nursery places in the area and aligning with the expansion to funded places from April 2024.
- 3.26. At the same time the capacity of the before and after school care offer for the school aged children will increase from 25 to 50 children to meet the long-term expansion of places linked to the need for all Primary Schools to secure before and after school care from September 2026 to support additional parents / carers back to work.
- 3.27. The building is in a significant state of disrepair and requires substantial updating to ensure it is a safe, usable space for children and staff. Capital improvements will include additional children's toilets, the provision of a secure entrance, installation of kitchen facilities, new flooring, and additional works to the outdoor space.
- 3.28. The cost of the works has been estimated at £0.113 million to be funded from developer funding, the WCC Early Years Sustainability Fund, the DfE Basic Need Grant and a funding contribution from the school.

3.29. Cabinet is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £0.113 million funded as follows:

Developer Funding	£0.038 million
Basic Need Funding	£0.039 million
WCC Early Years Sustainability Fund	£0.030 million
School Contribution	£0.006 million

Paddox Primary School – Specialist Resourced Provision

3.30. The specialist resourced provision at Paddox Primary School, known as “Brambles”, was established in 2020 as a 10-place provision for pupils with Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs (SEMH).

3.31. In order to continue to meet demand for provision for pupils with an EHCP, it is proposed to increase the number of places available at the specialist resourced provision from 10 to 14. This can be achieved within the current accommodation and therefore requires no capital expenditure or statutory consultation.

3.32. If approved by Cabinet, this would take effect from January 2024.

Water Orton Primary School – Specialist Resourced Provision

3.33. The specialist resourced provision at Water Orton Primary School, known as Evergreen, was established in 2016 as an 8-place provision for pupils with Communication & Interaction (C&I) needs.

3.34. In order to continue to meet the demand for provision for pupils with an EHCP, it is proposed to increase the number of places available at the specialist resourced provision, from 8 to 12. This can be achieved within the current accommodation and therefore requires no capital expenditure or statutory consultation.

3.35. If approved by Cabinet, this would take effect from January 2024.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1. 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. All future school capital projects will be developed in accordance with statutory regulations which include the revised Building Regulations 2021. These new building regulations include significant changes to the regulations around ventilation, energy efficiency and overheating, electric vehicle charging

and a number of smaller supporting elements of the regulations. Schools will therefore be built to new standards that are expected to produce lower carbon dioxide omissions compared to previous standards.

- 4.4. As part of the feasibility work on capital projects, where feasible net zero options and associated costs have been explored and considered.
- 4.5. Extensions to existing buildings, such as at the schemes at Warton Nethersole CofE Primary and St John’s Primary School, make environmental improvements a challenge. However, where possible new build elements will be fossil fuel free and will be net zero carbon enabled.
- 4.6. 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. The provision and access to local education provision supports the promotion of active travel and the health and well-being, economic and environmental benefits this can bring.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1. None

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1. Subject to Cabinet approval, those schemes requiring Council approval will be submitted on 19 December 2023.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of responses to consultation

Background Papers

- 1. Equality Impact Assessment

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith - Education Capital and Sufficiency Lead Commissioner	emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk
Director	Johnny Kyriacou - Director of Education	johnnykyriacou@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Nigel Minns - Executive Director for People	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Kam Kaur - Portfolio Holder for	kamkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk

	Education, Peter Butlin - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property	peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk
--	---	--

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

Local Member(s): Councillors Rik Spencer, Andrew Wright, Jenny Fradgley, Jerry Roodhouse, Martin Watson, Wallace Redford

Other members: Councillors Marian Humphreys, Jerry Roodhouse, Barbara Brown, Adrian Warwick, Parminder Singh Birdi, Sarah Boad, Sarah Feeney, and Will Roberts