

# County Council

19 December 2023

## Education Capital Programme 2023/24

### Recommendations

That Council:

1. Approves 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 addition of £6.335m to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at St John's Primary School subject to Cabinet's approval to increase the capacity of the school and establish specialist resourced provision.

### 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 Basic Need capital grant allocation for 2023/24 is £40.850 million, of which £8.511 million remains unallocated following December Cabinet. 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 £9.203 million of which £8.632 million is from the Basic Need Fund and £0.571 million is from developer contributions. 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	8,511	21,366	0	29,877
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
	<b>37,750</b>	<b>21,366</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,116</b>

- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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 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 Subject to recommendation by Cabinet, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £2.868 million funded as follows and agree to 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 Cabinet at its meeting on 14th December considered a report recommending an increase in capacity at St John's Primary School, from 1FE to 2FE, and the establishment of specialist resourced provision, following a statutory consultation process. Details of this can be found in the Cabinet report.
- 3.13 Subject to Cabinet approving the statutory proposal to increase the capacity of St John's Primary School and to establish specialist resourced provision, Council is asked to agree the proposal to allocate £6.335 million funded as follows and agree its addition to the Capital Programme:

Basic Need Funding	£5.838 million
Developer Funding	£0.497 million

#### **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. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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.

- 5.6. 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.

## Appendices

None

## Background Papers

None

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

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