

Select Committee on Children's Services – 19 June 2008

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Primary Capital Programme

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report and supporting presentation is to inform Select Committee of progress with the Primary Capital Programme and to invite comments on the long term aims.

Background

2. The Primary Capital Programme announced in 2005 is a national programme of capital investment intended to replace, remodel or refurbish around 50% of primary schools in England. It is much more than a building programme and aims to create primary schools that are:
 - Equipped for 21st century learning
 - At the heart of the community
 - With a range of children's services in reach of every family
3. Dudley has been allocated £4.2 million in 2009/10 and £6.5 million in 2010/11. It is expected that funding will continue at these levels for the whole 14 year programme subject to future decisions on public spending. Dudley is required to submit a Primary Strategy for Change to the Department for Children, Schools and Families by 16 June 2008. Approval of this strategy is essential to further progress within the programme and the release of funds from April 2009

Finance

4. The capacity to deliver a high volume of major capital projects is being created by supporting key staff with PRINCE 2 training in project management.
5. The costs of developing the strategy have been met from existing budgets.
6. The allocation for Primary Capital Programme is expected to be joined with other funding streams to amplify the impact of investments. This includes Devolved Formula Capital, Basic Need, Modernisation, School Access and Extended Schools. Where appropriate, external funding such as PCT investments should also be joined.

Law

7. The Council's statutory powers relating to the building of schools and the provision of education are contained in the relevant Education Acts.

Equality Impact

8. The strategy takes the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy into account.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that:-
 1. The Select Committee note the progress so far with the Primary Capital Programme.
 2. Advise the Cabinet Member on any issues that should be considered in the further development of the strategy.
 3. That further reports will be brought to Select Committee



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List of Background Papers