

Select Committee on Children's Services – 18 June 2009

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Primary Capital Programme 2008-2022

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview and update of the progress made by Dudley MBC regarding the Government's proposals for investment for renewing at least half of Primary School buildings nationally by 2022/23 called "Primary Capital Programme" (PCP).

Background

2. Aims of the Programme

To create 21st century primary schools at the heart of communities, enabling families to easily access children's services. The investment should support a wide range of policies, with the Children's Plan at its heart. The investment aims to:

- Raise standards;
- Improve life chances and well being of all children;
- Remove surplus places;
- Encourage inclusion;
- Ensure that Every Child Matters;
- Provide extended services for the local community.

3. Addressing Conditions

The Authority's Strategy for Change has been approved.

The DCSF has expectations in respect of sustainability and energy efficiency, specifying that all new school buildings are to reduce carbon emissions by at least 60%, relative to those constructed and designed to 2002 building regulations.

Additionally, new School buildings and refurbishment projects are required to achieve at least a 'very good' BREEAM (British Research Establishment Energy Assessment Method) schools rating.

The DCSF expects the Authority to provide annual updates of progress against its plans, and will shortly be providing monitoring arrangements to the Authority.

4. **Finance**

There is a total of £1.9 billion being invested between 2008 and 11. Allocations are by formula, based on roll numbers and levels of deprivation.

Local Authorities are expected to ensure that the primary capital funding will be joined up with other funding streams, as a result, colleagues in Buildings & Estates and Finance have worked together to ascertain what other funding opportunities there may be for the PCP Programme and those projects committed so far. The following potential sources of funding have been identified:-

- Schools' Reserves (those projects named)
- Devolved Capital (those projects named)
- Schools Access Initiative (percentage allocation/allocation for cost of Care Rooms)
- Targeted Capital Fund Grant (TCF) Schools Kitchens (Awaiting confirmation from DCSF)
- Asset Management Plan (AMP) Modernisation Allocation (2010/11 say 50% of £3.3m)
- Extended Schools Grant
- SEN (Quarry Bank Language Unit)
- Basic Need
- Capital Receipts

5. **Primary Strategy for Change**

All Local Authorities were required to produce a "Strategy for Change" document to consider the needs of all of their Primary School estate. Clear and concise guidance was given as to what the Strategy for Change must contain.

Consultation was held with both Dioceses and further meetings have been arranged to consider pupil place planning for church school places.

The areas that had to be considered in the document were:

- Local Perspective (setting out the high level strategic vision, describing the local area, its people and schools);
- Baseline Analysis (outlining the current position of the LEA, an analysis of building condition, educational performance, levels of deprivation and extended and community use);
- Long Term Aims (what the LEA want to achieve over the 15 year programme)
- Approach to Change (how the LEA will achieve its aims, local challenges and priorities, planning and prioritisation, capacity for building, design and ICT procurement);
- Initial Investment Priorities.

6. Identifying Priorities

In recent years there has been a shift towards a more strategic approach requiring Local Authorities to consider their whole school estate and to take a long term view about both renewing the estate and transforming education, starting with those most in need. A Scoring Matrix was devised to identify the priority schools for rebuilding, results of which were presented to Primary Headteachers Forum prior to submission.

Initial Investment Priorities had to be listed as part of the Strategy for Change, those schools identified as priority for the first five years of the PCP Programme are:

Quarry Bank Primary rebuild (construction to commence early 2010 and completion September 2011)

Red Hall Primary rebuild (construction to commence summer 2010 and completion January 2012)

Hawbush Primary remodel (construction to commence September 2009 and completion December 2010)

Olive Hill Primary refurbishment (construction to commence April 2009 and completion June 2010)

Hasbury Primary remodel (construction to commence April 2011 and completion June 2012)

Northfield Road Primary rebuild (construction to commence April 2011 and completion easter 2012)

Blowers Green Primary rebuild (construction to commence summer 2012 and completion December 2013)

Wrens Nest Primary School - although this is not technically part of the Primary Programme the Authority was successful in obtaining Targeted Capital Funding to rebuild the school and the first phase , consisting of classrooms and administration areas was completed Easter 2009, with a second phase to refurbish part of the existing building and demolish the existing classroom areas is due to be completed by February 2010.

7. **Timescales**

- Investment available from 1st April 2009;
- Rolling programme of work for 15 years from April 2009;
- Rolling programme of monitoring for 15 years from April 2009.

8. **Challenges for the Local Authority**

- Being prepared to commence spend of capital allocation April 2009, including agreed schemes with all partners;
- Resourcing of the work, including Buildings and Estates Officers, Consultants, other DCS Officers and Schools time;
- Embracing the Community School ethos, with extended services for the local community;
- Confirmation of size of new schools, setting of pupil admission numbers including a review of all existing figures and pupil projection data.

Finance

9. Dudley's confirmed PCP allocation is £4.2 million in 2009/10 and £6.58 million for 2010/11. Baselines will remain at £500 million a year thereafter subject to future public spending decisions. It is therefore anticipated that the Dudley allocation will be in the region of £70 million in total based on a 15 year programme.
10. The allocation for Primary Capital Programme is expected to be joined with other funding streams as identified above to amplify the impact of programme.

Law

11. The Council provide school buildings and equipment etc under powers contained in the Education Acts.

Equality Impact

12. The administration of the Primary Capital Programme is aimed at attaining the highest quality of education provision for all young people within the primary sector. Consequently, all actions are monitored to ensure that no individual or group of young people is adversely affected by any of the planning that is undertaken.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the Select Committee comment and notes the report.



.....
Mark Wyatt
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Fay Hayward, Head of Buildings and Estates

Telephone: 01384 814251

E-mail: fay.hayward@dudley.gov.uk

Background Paper:

Authority's Strategy for Change