

Title of meeting:	Education Decision Meeting
Decision maker	Cabinet Member for Education
Subject:	School Modernisation and Sufficiency Programme
Date of meeting:	16 th January 2020
Report from:	Alison Jeffery Director of Children, Families and Education
Report by:	Caroline Corcoran Head of Sufficiency, Participation and Resources - Education Service
Wards affected:	All Wards
Key decision (over £250k):	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of:

- Urgent school condition projects
- Mainstream school sufficiency schemes aimed at increasing school place capacity within the city
- Special school sufficiency schemes aimed at ensuring that schools can take children with more complex SEND.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member notes the progress on the school modernisation "urgent condition" projects, the secondary school sufficiency projects and the special school sufficiency projects (as set out in the report and in Appendix A).

2.2 It is recommended that the schemes agreed with the Lead Member since the last report are formally approved.

3. School modernisation (urgent condition) projects

- 3.1 The urgent condition projects have been identified through Asset Management Plan meetings, condition surveys and recommendations by Education officers concerning the needs of specific pupils.
- 3.2 Funding for urgent condition projects was approved by the Council at the start of the financial year, plus a contingency allowance for urgent emerging works.
- 3.3 Five significant projects were identified for urgent works and the condition projects have been commissioned.
- 3.4 Completed condition projects have been removed from the progress dashboard.
- 3.5 Minor projects this quarter are:
 - Trafalgar school - disability access for school meals
 - The Lantern - exploratory report re roof leaks
 - Mayfield school - ground works
- 3.6 The progress of the individual projects is detailed in the Progress dashboard at [Appendix A](#).

4. Secondary sufficiency schemes

- 4.1 Detailed analysis and forecasting has confirmed that the number of pupils requiring secondary school places will continue to rise until 2024/25, placing pressure on school place capacity. In line with the forecast reduction in primary numbers, secondary numbers are forecast to fall from 2025/26, providing surplus capacity, but this position could alter if there was significant housing development in the intervening period. The position will be reviewed again next year.
- 4.2 Capacity is already increasing at Trafalgar School, Admiral Lord Nelson School, Charter Academy, The Portsmouth Academy, and St Edmund's School. The progress of current secondary individual schemes at Admiral Lord Nelson School, Charter Academy and The Portsmouth Academy are detailed in Appendix A, which has been updated.
- 4.3 There are consequential costs associated with the ESFA project to deliver the Wymering school for pupils with autism. The costs relate to relocating the play equipment and skate ramp on the site, and legal fees associated with resolving minor land issues. A budget is required, and this can be funded from the existing capital programme, where there is funding for provision of new school places.

- 4.4 Action is required to address a modest pressure on places in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Expansion plans will need to ensure that space can be used flexibly to account for future potential uses if secondary numbers fall and surplus capacity is available in future years. Options are being finalised for consideration.

5. Primary sufficiency schemes

- 5.1 Detailed analysis and forecasting has confirmed that the number of pupils requiring primary schools places is within the current capacity for the next four years. This is based on a range of demographic indicators. Further pressure on capacity could be driven by potential housing developments and the schemes will be closely monitored to assess progress. Taking account of the reduction in demand as indicated by demographic indicators and the slower progress with housing developments, no action is required in 2019/20 in relation to the sufficiency of primary school places. The position will be reviewed again next year.
- 5.2 The capital funding to support the change to deliver 30 hours early years provision was allocated to Rainbow Corner Nursery, Little Cherubz and St Swithun's Sunbeams.
- 5.3 Funding to support the amalgamation of Wimborne Infant and Wimborne Junior schools (expected to take place in September 2020) is requested. A modest budget to complete the following works is required to reconfigure a single entrance to the newly combined school, provide a covered walkway to provide for safe passage between the infant and junior schools and to remove partition walls and re-carpet in the hall and the library to make them larger and allow the school to function effectively as an amalgamated school.

6. Special school sufficiency schemes

- 6.1 The council has previously approved funding for special school provision sufficiency schemes. There is an increasing demand for SEND places.
- 6.2 The progress of individual projects, as detailed in Appendix A, has been updated. These projects were not targeted at increasing the number of places, but ensuring that the schools can take children with more complex SEND.
- 6.3 A Strategic SEND Review of Accommodation was completed in spring 2019 which assessed the physical capacity in current SEND provision. The Review confirmed increasing number of pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities, and a growing pressure on capacity coupled with limited potential to expand existing sites to accommodate demand. A range of potential solutions are being considered.

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment is not required for the overall programme as it is not possible to assess the protected characteristics reasonably, as described in the Equality Act 2010, across such a diverse range of capital works.
- 7.2 The implementation of the school modernisation programme (urgent condition) and the secondary sufficiency programme (phase 2) will not have a negative impact on any of the equality groups. The programme will improve access to schools for all equality groups, particularly with regard to those pupils who have learning difficulties and / or a disability.
- 7.3 Each individual capital project/scheme includes an equalities impact assessment.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The works within the projects/schemes identified are being undertaken in accordance with the council's statutory powers and duties and, in particular, the council:
- is required to provide school premises in respect of foundation or voluntary controlled schools under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Schedule 3
 - has an obligation to ensure that school premises are maintained to a prescribed standard in accordance with section 542 of the Education Act 1996 and the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012, made under that section.
 - has a statutory duty to provide sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in its area in accordance with section 14 of the Education Act 1996. The schools must be sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. Local Authorities must also promote diversity and parental preference.

9. Finance comments

- 9.1 Financial monitoring of the capital programme is reported within the quarterly budget monitoring report on the January 2020 agenda.
- 9.2 For condition projects, schools will be expected to use their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocations to support these key priorities, in keeping with government expectations for the use of this funding. The expected contributions from schools' will be based on the agreed contribution methodology.
- 9.3 Any ongoing revenue implications will be met by individual schools through their individual budgets which are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

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Signed by:
Alison Jeffery
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix A: School Modernisation Programme - Live Projects Progress Dashboard

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Asset Management Plan files	Housing Property Services
Condition Survey Reports	Housing Property Services – Concerto database

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: