

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 15 July 2021

Subject: Schools modernisation and sufficiency programme update

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

Wards affected: All wards

Key decision: 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
- School place update and School sufficiency schemes aimed at increasing school place capacity within the city

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.

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

3. Background

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 for 2021/22 and 2022/23, plus a contingency allowance for urgent emerging works.

3.3 The following projects are now being progressed.

School	Project type	Cost
Portsdown Primary School	Replacement of oil based heating system.	475,000
Medina Primary School	Replacement of boilers and pipework.	475,000
Cumberland Infant School	Replacement of heat emitters.	100,000
Southsea Infants School	Repairs to brickwork and windows.	285,000
15 schools included	Condition surveys including mechanical and electrical	150,000
8 schools included	Electric upgrade: Surge protection devices.	198,000

3.4 In addition to the projects previously agreed, the following urgent condition schemes have been identified and require Cabinet Member approval:

- DDA works at Moorings Way Infant School £12,500
- Craneswater Annex Fire Safety Works £48,000
- Craneswater Annex Lighting and Electrical works £50,000
- Fernhurst Junior School Wall repairs £22,000
- Southsea Infant School Wall repairs £42,770

Primary School Places

3.5 The number of primary pupil places rose significantly for over a decade, fuelled by rising birth rates, inward migration and housing developments. Year R numbers peaked in 2017 and have been declining year on year since.

Table 1: Actual Primary Pupil Numbers

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual Year R (January Census)	2,366	2,419	2,461	2,337	2,359	2,291
Number of available places at Year R	2,475	2,475	2,520	2,495	2,505	2,505
<i>Surplus places</i>	4.40%	2.26%	2.34%	6.33%	5.83%	8.54%



- 3.6 The number of starting school applications for September 2021 has been 200 below the forecast number. From conversations with other authorities we understand that this is reasonably typical of what is happening elsewhere in the country and is thought to have been caused by pandemic related reasons. It is likely that more parents than usual who, without the normal cycle of school open events and reminders at nursery and with the wider disruptions to family life, may simply have missed the need to apply for a school place in January.
- 3.7 Despite the normal publicity around primary offer day on 16 April to prompt parents who have not yet applied for a place for their child, it is possible that admission numbers for 2021 may end up being lower than expected this year and we will be keeping a close eye on late applications during the summer term.
- 3.8 Should the number of surplus places continue to rise, steps will be taken to manage the overall level of surplus places by reducing admission numbers and re-designating accommodation. In these circumstances the following criteria will be used to identify schools where action should be explored;
- Schools where the forecast number on roll identifies a 15% surplus capacity through a decline in the expected number of pupils
 - Schools within a catchment area that identifies a 15% level of surplus capacity which is expected to continue for 5 years or more

Secondary School Places

- 3.9 In order to meet the demand for secondary school places, 860 additional places were put in place for September 2020. Despite this investment, by September 2023 there will be less than 2% surplus places available (as shown by Table 2 below) and therefore additional secondary places are currently being planned at the following schools:
- Admiral Lord Nelson/Trafalgar - additional 10 places, Year 7 mainstream places over the Trust schools for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years through refurbishment of Art, Design and Technology provision (£161,000) and the continued use and further development of the 2 class resourced unit through classroom refurbishment and re provision of teaching areas (£324,000)
 - Miltoncross - additional 10 place from 2022 and 20 places from 2023 (subject to design and cost agreement)
 - Priory - additional 10 places for a 3 to 4 year period from September 2023 (subject to design and cost agreement)

Table 2: Forecast surplus capacity at Year 7

	Estimate 2020/21	Estimate 2021/22	Estimate 2022/23	Estimate 2023/24	Estimate 2024/25	Estimate 2025/26	Estimate 2026/27
Forecast Number on Roll (SCAP 2020)	1,996	2,090	2,131	2,187	2,188	2,122	2,185
Capacity (Admission Limit)	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214	2,214
Surplus / (Deficit)	9.8%	5.6%	3.7%	1.2%	1.2%	4.2%	1.3%

Special School Places

3.10 Following the full council meeting on 9th February 2021, building works are currently commencing at the following schools:

- Penhale Infant School - Inclusion Centre due for completion from September 2021 on a phased programme of works
- Cliffdale Primary School - Additional 18 places from September 2021, design also underway for expansion programme
- The Lantern - upto 15 additional complex plus places from September 2021

3.11 Design work is currently underway at the following schools:

- Expansion of Flying Bull Inclusion Centre
- Feasibility for expansion of Redwood Park

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 Additional funding implications identified for both urgent priority condition works and sufficiency of school places can be met from within the existing capital programme.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 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 areas of equality and diversity, communities & safety, regeneration & culture, environment and public space.

5.2 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.

5.3 Each individual capital project/scheme includes an equalities impact assessment.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The projects identified are being undertaken in accordance with the council's statutory powers and duties, in particular the duty 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.
- 6.2 The Education Act 1996, section 14, requires a local authority to secure sufficient primary and secondary schools in their area, sufficient being in relation to number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education and requiring the LA to have regard to the need to secure that special educational provision is made for pupils with special educational needs.
- 6.3 A local authority is also required under the Children and Families Act 2014 to keep under review its educational, training and social care provision for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and to consider the extent to which the provision is sufficient to meet need.
- 6.4 The recommendations contained in this report and set out in paragraph 2 above are being sought with the intention of furthering the above duties and are in compliance with the legislation applicable. The recommendations sought are within the Cabinet Member's powers, as set out in Part 2 Section 3 of the Council's constitution.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 Financial monitoring of the capital programme is reported within the quarterly budget monitoring report. The outturn monitoring report for 2020-21 has been brought to this meeting.
- 7.2 The additional condition projects and sufficiency projects can be met within the existing budgets for those schemes.
- 7.3 For condition projects, schools are expected to use their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocations to support these key priorities, in keeping with government expectations of the use of this funding. The expected contributions from schools' will be based on the agreed contribution methodology.
- 7.4 Any on-going revenue implications will be met by individual schools through their individual budgets which are funded from the Dedicated School Grant (DSG). The expected reduction in primary pupil numbers in September 2021 will impact on individual schools budgets in the 2022-23 financial year, as

funding will be based on the October 2021 pupil census. The potential implications will be explored with the Education department and individual schools where necessary.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

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

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

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Signed by: