

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

Date of meeting: 29 July 2022

Subject: Update on the Education Capital Programme

Report from: Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families and Education

Report by: Alison Critchley, Head of Sufficiency & Resources

Wards affected: All

Key decision: Yes/No

Full Council decision: Yes/No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the implementation of the Education capital programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the council has been allocated a further High Needs Provision Capital allocation of £5.80m for 2022-24
- 2.2 To note the invite from the Department of Education (DfE) to submit applications for new Free Schools and the council's response.
- 2.3 To note the progress on the 'Accommodation for Special Educational Needs' (additional specialist school places) projects.
- 2.4 To note the Special Educational Needs schemes agreed with the Cabinet Member since the last report.
- 2.5 To note progress on the sufficiency schemes.
- 2.6 To note progress on the school condition projects for LA Maintained schools.
- 2.7 To note that the council will be supporting an application to the DfE to carry out a land transfer at Beacon View Primary Academy.
- 2.8 To note progress with the replacement of the education case management (EMS) system project.

3. Background

3.1 SEND Accommodation Strategy

- 3.1.1 As part of the 2021-22 capital programme, the council agreed on 9 February 2021 to add £3.5m to the funding for "Accommodation for Special Educational Needs" (additional specialist school places) to create additional places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in special schools and inclusion centres attached to mainstream schools.
- 3.1.2 The council agreed a further £550,000 of funding on 15 February 2022 for Arundel Court Inclusion Centre.
- 3.1.3 The council has also been allocated an additional £6.0m of High Needs Provision Capital funding for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24.
- 3.1.4 The DfE has invited applications to create new SEND Free Schools with a deadline for initial expressions of interest of 11 July 2022. Officers are working with schools and partners to continue to develop proposals that prioritise the most effective use of this funding and have the greatest impact on the inclusion strategy.
- 3.1.5 An update on the key projects agreed in March 2021 is provided below:

School	Places	Programme	Budget
Penhale Infant School Inclusion Centre	16	Completed Sept 22. We have agreed a small further project at Penhale to create an additional 8 places.	Within budget
Flying Bull Inclusion Centre expansion	16	The programme has slipped due to the availability of materials. The revised completion date is now October 22.	Within budget
Cliffdale Primary Academy expansion	5-8	Phase 2 on track for completion August 22.	Within budget

- 3.1.6 The SEND accommodation strategy includes Inclusion Capital Grants of up to £10,000 for mainstream schools. These can be used to enable schools to enhance their facilities for children with SEND, for example by creating sensory rooms or enhancing other spaces for use with small groups of children with special needs. A further round of grants will be opened up to Portsmouth schools in the Autumn Term 2022.
- 3.1.7 **Disability Adaptations:** Hygiene and Changing facilities are required at Castle View Secondary Academy to support the needs of pupils with SEND.

- 3.1.8 Essential building condition work to replace an area of roofing at the Annexe building at Craneswater will enable an existing room to be brought back into use as a hygiene room. The building currently accommodates 28-32 young people from Mary Rose Academy. The work will enable young people with specific hygiene needs to attend the Craneswater site with their peers.
- 3.1.9 Work is progressing on plans for an Inclusion Centre at Arundel Court Primary Academy, providing an additional 24 pupil places from September 2023.

3.2 Basic Need: Sufficiency

- 3.2.1 The current capital programme includes a budget for future secondary expansion schemes ("scheme 18") and for future primary and secondary expansion schemes ("scheme 30"). Current forecasts are that the number of primary age children will decrease over the next 4-5 years and, therefore, we do not anticipate that funding for schemes to create additional primary places is needed.
- 3.2.2 At this time, we estimate that there are sufficient places for all Year 7 pupils expected to start in secondary school in September 2022. However, the pressure is growing in secondary as schools are being asked to take in additional pupils in bulge years. Admissions colleagues continue to work with schools to manage within existing provision, whilst opportunities to create additional places, where required, continue to be explored.
- 3.2.3 The work at Miltoncross Academy secondary school is on schedule to be complete by September 2023 by the PFI contractor, Mitie. This will create up to 10 places in 2023/24, and up to 20 places in 2024/25. A variation to the PFI contract will be agreed in advance. The intention is that the school are responsible for maintenance rather than adding this into the contract schedule.

3.3 Schools Building Condition: Urgent Work and Planned Maintenance

- 3.3.1 A budget of £1,583,400 over a 2-year period is available to address school urgent condition needs. As with the other building projects, the tenders for work are coming back at much higher costs than originally expected. The work is therefore being prioritised to ensure that we remain within our overall budget.

School	Project	Budget	Programme
Portsmouth Primary	Replacement oil-based heating system	Within budget	Completion Sept 22
Cumberland Infant	Phase 2: Heating improvements	Within budget	Completion Sept 22
Medina Primary	Boiler replacement	Within budget	Planned Start June 23

- 3.3.2 Craneswater Annex is located adjacent to the Craneswater Junior School. The building is utilised by pupils aged 16-19 on roll at Mary Rose Academy. Currently, 2 rooms at the back of the building are not used due to the risk of masonry falling onto the glass roof. For the same reason, the outdoor area at the back of the school cannot be used. As a result of some early feasibility, it is estimated that a project to address these condition issues and bring the rooms and outdoor space back into use would be around £125k. This would also allow 1 of the rooms to be refurbished into a dedicated hygiene room, which could accommodate pupils with specific needs.
- 3.3.3 The Harbour School @ Tipner building: Support is being provided to The Delta Education Multi Academy Trust to replace a number of windows in the building that are deemed to be in urgent need of repair.
- 3.3.4 In addition to the Schools Condition capital grant funding allocated to the council, Academy Trusts can also apply to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for investment into essential maintenance projects. The following academy projects have successfully secured funding from the 2022/23 round.
- Cliffdale Primary Academy Fire Safety and Compliance
 - Cliffdale Primary Academy Boiler Replacement
 - Solent Infant School Health and Safety Structural
 - Springfield School Replacement of Flat Roofing
 - The Harbour School @ Tipner Replacement of Flat Roofing

3.4 School Rebuilding Programme

- 3.4.1 The rebuild of Mayfield School, as part of the DfE's Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) Round 2 is nearing completion and currently forecast to be complete on site by November 2022. The £26m+ project has experienced some issues with land contamination which will add to the original budget and timescales. Whilst the new school building has been completed and is open to pupils the work on demolition and re provision of outdoor space is currently 19 weeks behind the original programme.

The delays, land contamination costs and structural issues with the boundary wall have added to the costs that the council is responsible for in respect of the boundary wall and improving road safety around the site.

- 3.4.2 Beacon View Primary Academy was rebuilt under an earlier phase of the DfE's rebuilding programme. The relocation of the school building has resulted in the play and sports areas being dispersed across a large site. The Academy has put forward a proposal to transfer part of the unused playing fields back to the local authority, potentially providing an opportunity for housing development. In return, any funding secured as a result of housing development would be reinvested into the school site to improve

recreational space that works better operationally for the pupils of the school. As this is a large site, the proposed development would not result in any significant loss of useable playing fields for the pupils. The development is dependent upon the DfE's approval to dispose of part of the school's playing field under the S.77 legislation. The next step would be to submit an application to the DfE for 'Consent for a Land Transaction'.

3.5 Replacement of the Education Case Management System

- 3.5.1 The outcome of the procurement exercise to replace the education case management system (currently Capita ONE) is now complete. The preferred bidder is Servelec (part of The Access Group) and the contract has been awarded.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The ongoing work to identify priorities, develop projects and deliver the projects outlined above will help to ensure that we are able to continue to provide sufficient high quality places for the children of Portsmouth in the most cost effective way possible.
- 4.2 The secondary sufficiency work will ensure that there are enough local places for all secondary places as the bulge in pupil numbers fully affects secondary schools.

5. Integrated impact assessment

- 5.1 The implementation of these projects will not have a negative impact on any of the areas of equality of diversity, community safety, regeneration and culture or environment and public space.
- 5.2 The implementation of the SEND accommodation strategy, in particular, will improve access to schools for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The development of inclusion centres will increase the opportunities for these children to interact with their peers in mainstream provision where appropriate bringing benefits to children both in inclusion units and mainstream classes.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The recommendations identified within this report will assist the council in ensuring compliance with its statutory duties, which include the following:
- Statutory duties for children and young people with specialist educational needs and disabilities set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, including the duty to ensure children with SEND have their needs met and keeping under review the educational, training and social care

provision for children and young people who have SEND as well as considering the extent to which the provision is sufficient to meet need.

- A statutory duty to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area under section 13 of the Education Act 1996 and 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.
- An obligation to ensure school premises maintained to a prescribed standard in accordance with section 542 of the Education Act 1996 and the School Premises (England) regulations 2021.

6.2 The recommendations contained in this report are provided for the purpose of updating the Cabinet Member.

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 2021-22 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.

Signed by: **Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families and Education**

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



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

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Signed by: