

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 2ND JUNE 2008

CAMPUS TELFORD AND WREKIN: PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME – STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND SOCIAL REGENERATION

1. PURPOSE

To seek approval to the submission of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the proposed strategy for primary school provision as detailed in the Primary Strategy for Change document be approved for submission to DCSF by 16th June 2008.

3. SUMMARY

The Government is committed to renewing at least half of all primary school buildings by 2022/23 through the Primary Capital Programme. The aim is to create primary schools that are equipped for 21st century teaching and learning, and are at the heart of their communities with children's services in reach of every family.

The primary capital investment should support a wide range of policies with the Children's Plan at its heart. The investment will support the transformation of education, including raising standards and improving the life chances and well being of all children, the removal of surplus places, inclusion, Every Child Matters, and the provision of extended services for the local community.

Schools that do not benefit directly from the Primary Capital Programme will continue to receive funding via the devolved programme and, where appropriate, the targeted capital fund.

Every Council must submit a Strategy for Change which details their proposals for the provision of primary education in their area. Telford & Wrekin's proposed submission is attached to this report.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not applicable.

5. INFORMATION

5.1 Background

In 2005 the Government set out ambitious plans for a new long-term strategic capital investment programme for primary schools. The Government pledged an initial £1,150 million extra resources for this programme from 2008 to 2011, and committed to continue that level of investment for 15 years in total, subject to future public spending decisions.

On 10 October 2007, allocations for the Primary Capital Programme were announced, including pilot projects in 23 local authorities in 2008-09 and extra resources for every local authority from 2009. The day before, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, announced that they had increased investment by £750 million across two years (£200m of new investment announced by the Chancellor in the Comprehensive Spending Review, together with £550 million of headroom available within the Department's existing capital settlement). This gives a total of £1,900 million in 2008-11.

Telford & Wrekin's Strategy for Change

The Council's Primary Strategy for Change is linked very closely to the Building Schools for the Future proposals and the vision for Campus Telford & Wrekin. A part of this vision is to create learning communities incorporating the local secondary school with a feeder primary school and other community facilities, our strategy also commits to building enhancement which has been identified through the Asset Management Programme. Similar opportunities will be sought on other, non-secondary school Learning Community Sites.

5.2 Equality and Diversity

The Primary Capital Programme will assist in seeing the vast majority of the Council's schools enhanced over the next 15 years. By combining a number of funding sources, this major capital investment will provide much improved disabled facilities for pupils, employees and community users.

All new and refurbished extended school facilities will be available to all members of the community.

5.3 Environmental Impact

All new buildings provided by funding from the Primary Capital Programme would be designed to the latest environmentally friendly and energy efficient standards and replace old outdated buildings which are energy inefficient. Wherever possible any refurbishment projects will also aim to provide greater energy efficiency.

5.4 Legal Comment

The Authority is required to submit the Strategy for Change containing proposals for the provision of primary education in their area to the DCSF by the 16th June 2008 in order to comply with the timeline set out for the Primary Capital Programme.

5.5 Links with Corporate Priorities

5.5.1 The specific proposals will all significantly contribute to the realisation of the Borough's Community Ambitions with particular emphasis in respect of:

- A community that is well educated and skilled, and which values and develops its children and young people
- A community that is healthy, cared for and well housed
- A place that is attractive and clean, with a high quality sustainable environment
- A community that is strong, cohesive and socially inclusive.

5.6 Opportunities and Risks

In proposing this project, the Corporate Risk Management Methodology will be complied with. This approach is not intended to eliminate risks but to identify the risks and manage them. However not all risks can be managed all of the time and some risks may not have been identified.

The following key risks and opportunities associated with this project have been identified and will be assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage them:

- Strategy for Change rejected by DCSF following submission in June 2008.
- Programme slippage due to insufficient funding availability.
- Changes in pupil demography.
- Changes in Government led priorities and future spending reviews.
- Failure to meet targets established by the strategy.

A formal Risk Assessment Workshop is scheduled to take place on 5th June 2008 to identify and assess all the risks identified, including the key risks above, for the full term of the Primary Capital Strategy from 2008 to 2022.

5.7 Financial Implications

The Council will receive, through the Primary Capital Programme, funding of £3,000,000 for the financial year 2009-10, and a further £5,378,000 in 2010-11. Beyond this initial 2 year allocation, it is envisaged that further funding will be provided subject to future spending reviews.

The benefit from this allocation will be maximised by the use of additional funding sources including other capital allocations to be identified as part of the ongoing Children and Young People Capital Programme.

Further financial reports will be submitted as more detailed cost implications are identified.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS

District wide implications.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Building Schools for the Future – Strategy for Change Part 1.
- Children & Young People Asset Management Plan.
- Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme Prospectus (March 2006).
- Guidance on Primary Strategy for Change (December 2007)

***Report prepared by Mal Yale, Capital & Facilities Manager
Tel: 01952 380932***