

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

5TH FEBRUARY, 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Cunningham

PROGRESS REPORT ON STRATEGY FOR CHANGE, PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1. Summary

In June 2008, the Strategy for change relating to the Primary Capital Programme was submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Subject to approval the Council would receive capital allocations for 14 years to support the delivery of the Children's Plan by creating primary schools fit for the 21st century. The overriding objective of the programme was to transform primary education by rebuilding, remodeling or refurbishing at least half the schools.

The response of the DCSF was received in November 2008 and approval has been given to the first year of the programme and the Council has been asked to revise the Strategy in light of several comments from the assessment process. The purpose of this report is to outline progress in developing the specific schemes for 2009/10 and seek Cabinet approval to the revised draft Strategy for consultation.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. . Cabinet note progress on those schemes identified for implementation in 2009/10.
2. Cabinet approve for consultation with schools, dioceses and other partners a revised draft Strategy which takes into account the comments of the DCSF assessors.
3. Cabinet also approve the delegation of approval to the final Strategy following the period of consultation to the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and & Young People.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Strategy for Change is an essential component in securing funding for the Primary Capital Programme.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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DETAIL

1. In June, 2008 the Council submitted the Strategy for Change for the Primary Capital Programme for approval by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The DCSF had already indicated the availability of funding to support the Programme over the next 14 years and for Stockton on Tees, the allocations would be £3,066,466 in 2009/10 £5,444,406 in 2010/11 and possibly £2.5 million for each year thereafter until 2023.

2. In November 2008 DCSF approved the Strategy for Change but asked that the Strategy be developed further in specific areas. The DCSF approved expenditure for 2009/10 but asked for the revised Strategy to be submitted by the end of March 2009 before further funding would be approved.
3. In the Programme for 2009/10 are a number of smaller schemes that will be undertaken in the summer months of 2009
 - The completion of the upgrade of High Clarence Primary School which includes the school hall and kitchen
 - The removal of outdated temporary buildings in the following schools and replacement with extensions to create modern foundation stage and other areas
 - Levendale
 - Preston
 - Thornaby Church of England
 - Wolviston
 - asset and development plans for all schools will be prepared
 - It had been envisaged that a small scheme would be undertaken at Fairfield Primary School but in preparing the brief it is now considered that a more extensive scheme is necessary and can only be undertaken in 2010/11
 - A scheme to improve internal circulation and classroom space at Mill Lane Primary School has now been proposed for 2009/10 and the Strategy adjusted accordingly
4. Though reliant on DCSF approval, work will also continue on the briefs for schemes proposed for 2010 and beyond.
5. A revised draft Strategy for Change is attached to this report. It is proposed that this draft be distributed for consultation with schools, dioceses and other interested parties during February with a closing date for comment in early March. Any changes resulting can be incorporated in the Strategy for onward submission to the DCSF.
6. The principle changes to the Strategy can be summarised as follows :
 - a more detailed description of the long term aims in primary education and how the Primary Capital Programme will assist in the transformation of schools
 - further details on the development of ICT to support Primary Schools
 - better links with the wider Children's agenda by the introduction of information from the Children's and Young People's Plan
 - a more comprehensive analysis of the risks associated with the Programme
 - a closer link to the development of the BSF programme than was possible in early 2008.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

7. The allocation of Primary Capital Funds is reliant on the unreserved approval of the Strategy for Change.

Legal

8. Any work is subject to the Council's overall duties.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The programme is categorised as low to medium risk. A full Risk Register has been prepared and will be monitored and amended as the Programme unfolds.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

9. The programme forms a part of overall plans to facilitate the objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared. The Guidance in preparing the Strategy and the Strategy itself takes due account of equalities issues, especially of opportunity. There are no remedial actions proposed but equalities issues will be considered for each major initiative.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. The revised draft Strategy will be distributed to all stakeholders including Dioceses, Schools, partner organisation.

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Background Papers

Report to Cabinet 22nd May, 2008
Strategy for Change, originally published June 2008

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All Wards

Property Implications

When complete the Programme will have had an impact on half the Primary Schools in Stockton on Tees

