

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

11TH MARCH, 2010

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Cunningham

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR CHANGE, PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND THE PROGRAMME ITSELF

1. Summary

In February 2009 Cabinet approved for consultation a revised Strategy for Change relating to the Primary School Capital Programme. This was subsequently approved and implemented by Cabinet Member and Corporate Director. The first year of the Programme is now complete and this report outlines progress on those projects included in that year.

This report also outlines proposed changes to the Programme for years 2 and beyond. These changes arise as a result of feasibility studies undertaken on some of the proposed projects and unexpected variations in the demographic projections for the Borough.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet notes progress on those schemes identified for implementation in Year 1 2009/10.
2. Cabinet approves a revised Programme for Years 2 and 3 which reflects changed circumstances.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

In due course the Programme will be submitted to DCSF for approval to changes in year 2 and for proposals for year 3 and beyond.

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.

CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STRATEGY FOR CHANGE, PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND THE PROGRAMME ITSELF

1. Summary

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This report also outlines proposed changes to the Programme for years 2 and beyond. These changes arise as a result of feasibility studies undertaken on some of the proposed projects and unexpected variations in the demographic projections for the Borough.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet notes progress on those schemes identified for implementation in 2009/10.
2. Cabinet approves a revised Programme for Years 2 and 3 outlined in paragraph 13 which reflects changed circumstances.

DETAIL

1. In May 2009 DCSF approved the Council's Strategy for Change and the first two years of the Programme. Allocations were for £3m in 2009/10 and £5.4m in 2010/11. Subject to approval by DCSF it is envisaged that there will be an allocation of £2.5 million each year for 12 further years.

2. The programme for Year 1, 2009/10 included the following schemes :-

High Clarence, new hall and other internal changes
Levendale, permanent nursery building
Preston, new nursery/foundation stage accommodation
Thornaby C of E, new nursery/foundation stage accommodation
Wolviston, new nursery/foundation stage accommodation
Mill Lane, internal adaptations

3. All these schemes have completed within 2009/10 with the exception of Preston and Thornaby C of E which will complete in August 2010 and April 2010 respectively.
4. Work will start on new accommodation adjoining the junior block at Fairfield that will house the nursery and KS1 in April 2010.
5. Alongside these developments design work has started on the replacement of mobiles at Whinstone, which will start on site in Summer 2010.
6. In the original programme for Year 2, 2010/11 there were two schemes, the first to provide a single building for the amalgamated Bewley Primary School by extending one of the two existing buildings. Design work has started on the scheme and a start on site is envisaged in Spring 2011. The second scheme was a proposal to reconfigure the Catholic schools in Billingham. It was envisaged that improvements in some of the 4 schools would potentially facilitate a rationalisation of places to reflect a need to reduce surplus places. The high cost of such work and the changed environment in terms of school places, examined further below, have meant that the proposal is not achievable in the short term and each school will now need to be considered within the programme or LCVAP independently. The removal of this proposal has meant that the programme for Year 2 is now undercommitted.
7. In the Strategy for Change the Council placed an emphasis on schools with the highest need as established from a close examination of a number of factors :
 - the condition of existing buildings
 - the suitability of buildings to provide modern educational standards and extended services
 - the existence of surplus places or oversubscribed schools
 - the attainment and achievement of individual schools
 - deprivation as measured using tax credit uptake
 - the size of a school and its relationship with the community as a whole and with adjacent schools
8. At the time that the Strategy was prepared in 2009 the number of pupils attending primary schools stood at 14,423, a decline of 2938 since 1999. Ten years ago the average size of each year group across all schools was 2400 pupils. Last year (2009) this had fallen to below 2000 in three of the seven year groups, 2100 in another three and 2200 in the remaining group. During the ten year period 1700 places were removed and now across the Borough there are 16259 places with 14551 filled, giving 1708 or 10.5% surplus. Predictions for the next five years (it is never possible to look beyond five years) are now influenced by a higher birth rate and net migration into the Borough. For the years 2010 to 2014 the number of children admitted into reception year is projected at 2206, 2308, 2429, 2456 and 2466. If these projections materialise the present surplus of places will reduce and, in specific parts of the Borough, additional places may be required.

9. Whilst originally the Strategy was based on further modest reductions in surplus places it is now important to preserve places and take opportunities to increase places where the need arises. That has been proposed in developing both Whinstone and Bewley Primary Schools. Some existing schools also have accommodation that will allow an increase in capacity. Any further significant developments will need to address future need as well.
10. For years 3 and beyond two large redevelopments had been identified, the redevelopment of Tilery and Oxbridge Lane Primary Schools. These remain of high priority because of the condition and suitability of the buildings and deprivation factors. The site of a new Oxbridge Lane School remains unresolved though there is a potential opportunity to place it on the Grangefield site. The replacement of Tilery School can still take place during year 3 bearing in mind that it will commit much of the Primary Capital grant for both years 3 and 4.
11. The following are schools where previous work has identified the need to consider primary capital or other investment, subject to availability :-
- Mandale Mill Split site and therefore suitability issues
 - Norton Poor internal layout
 - Priors Mill Split site and therefore suitability issues
 - Roseberry Split site and therefore suitability issues
 - The Glebe Poor condition/circulation
 - Holy Trinity/Rosehill Split site and therefore suitability issues
 - Yarm Poor internal layout and split levels
 - Ash Trees Limited Space
 - Durham Lane Replacement of mobile
12. The following schemes are proposed for Year 2 (2010/11) as they are relatively straight forward and can be achieved within the year. Any other from the above list would not be able to start until the year end and therefore much of the spend would be in year 3

Norton
Durham Lane
Whinstone
The Glebe

It is proposed that the scheme to adapt the internal layout of Yarm Primary School nursery area is undertaken using the NDS Modernisation Grant. Some initial work (mainly design work) on the development of Tilery Primary School would also take place in Year 2.

13. The programme for years 2 and 3 would therefore be the following :

Scheme	Allocation *	
	2010/11 (£'000s)	2011/12 (£'000s)
	6,634.0	3,693.0
Bewley	1,434.0	1.666
Fairfield	2,053.0	
Whinstone	1,266.0	
Durham Lane	0,325.0	
Norton	0,550.0	
The Glebe	0,700.0	
Tilery	<u>0,306.0</u>	<u>2.027</u>
	<u>6.634</u>	<u>3.693</u>

* Includes Basic Need Grant intended to fund additional places as will occur in Bewley, Whinstone and Tilery

14. The changed proposals have been discussed with the four Diocese and Primary Headteachers and there has been general support for them.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

15. The allocation of Primary Capital Funds is reliant on the approval of DCSF and is supported by the Basic Needs Grant

Legal

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

17. 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

18. The programme forms a part of overall plans to support the objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan, by facilitating the transformation of Primary Education.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

19. 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

20. The revised Programme will be distributed to all stakeholders including Dioceses, Schools, partner organisation. It impacts across the whole Borough.

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Background Papers

Report to Cabinet 22nd May, 2008
Strategy for Change, originally published June 2008
Report to Cabinet 5th February, 2009

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