

Cabinet – 10th September 2014

Education Capital Programme 2014/15 – Further Scheme

Portfolio: Councillor M Nazir, Deputy Leader and Regeneration portfolio

Related portfolios: Councillor B Cassidy Children's services and education

Service: Asset Management, Property Services

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary

The report sets out schemes from the Education Asset Management Plan for approval. In order to support the raising of educational attainment and achievement, these projects will provide improved learning environments for Walsall pupils and are part of the continued and significant investment in the buildings of Walsall schools.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the schemes, subject to confirmation of an appropriate school contribution, and budgets set out in **Appendix A** of this report – including permission to seek tenders and appoint contractors to undertake the work identified.
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director for Regeneration Services in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder authority to award contracts (including authorising execution/signature of the contract and ancillary documents) to the most suitable contractors having regard to Best Value for the works/services as set out.
- 2.3 That Cabinet approves the option to use an appropriate form of procurement and contracting arrangements determined by the Head of Property Services to provide the most efficient and value for money means of delivering the projects. This shall include consideration of traditional procurement and EU compliant frameworks available to local authorities.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 The Education Capital Programme is made up of grant and borrowing powers from Government, Section 106 contributions and capital receipts. Capital schemes funded from the programme usually include a contribution from schools, from their Devolved Formula Capital [DFC] or revenue budgets. All government grants and borrowing powers, Section 106 contributions relating to the sufficient supply of pupil places and capital receipts from the sale of the playing field element of closed school sites are ring-fenced to education use. Some money is ring-fenced to one phase or one type of accommodation and some targeted for projects at specific schools.

Priorities for recommendation to Cabinet are made using the following priorities: Health and safety, condition & basic need [the sufficient supply of pupil places].

These priorities have been agreed by Cabinet and the Department for Education (DfE) in the past through approval of the Education Asset Management Plan Statement of Priorities.

The aim of the education capital programme is to contribute to the delivery of the Local Authority's vision for education in nursery, primary, secondary and special schools; the raising of standards and opportunities for all Walsall pupils; anticipated changes in school population and curriculum needs; and delivering the Council's landlord duties in community and voluntary controlled schools.

The Government has reduced the amount of Devolved Formula Capital distributed to schools and this has resulted in a reduction in the level of school contributions received from individual schools. In addition, the amount of capital funding available to the Council is also reducing and as such it is essential that only the highest priority schemes are selected for inclusion onto the programme.

- 3.2 A number of high priority condition items have been identified at various schools. It is proposed that this list of schemes forms the next phase of the ongoing work to upgrade school premises. All of these schemes will be funded through the capital maintenance allocation received from the Department for Education [DfE]. Formerly approved schemes can be found in previous cabinet reports.

The table below details these schemes, school contributions and estimated costs;

School	Scheme	School Contribution	Total scheme cost
Beacon Primary School	Roofing Works	£5,000	£140,000
Brownhills School	Replacement of Asbestos Roofing	£10,000	£180,000
Blackwood	Heating and Upgrade of Gas Supply	£5,000	£180,000
Caldmore Primary	Roofing works	£5,000	£140,000
Fullbrook Nursery	Lighting Upgrade	£5,000	£35,000
Jane Lane School	Lighting Upgrade	£5,000	£ 90,000

Lodge Farm Primary	New Heating System	0	£220,000
Leighswood Primary	Roofing works	£5,000	£120,000
Old Hall Special	Heating and Distribution	£ 5,000	£100,000
Pheasey Park Farm	Window & Door Replacement	£ 10,000	£150,000
Pool Hayes Primary	Roofing works	£5,000	£140,000
St Johns Primary	Asbestos Removal & Reinstatement	0	£60,000*
Whetstone Fields Primary	Distribution & Emitters	£5,000	£150,000
	Total	£65,000	£1,705,000

PI**Note: A survey prior to rewiring at St John's Primary School has identified materials containing asbestos which will require removal prior to the rewire taking place. The school have contributed to the rewiring scheme therefore no contribution will be provided on this occasion.

4. Council priorities

- 4.1 The schemes will contribute to an improved learning environment for Walsall pupils, their families and the wider community.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Construction programmes are at risk of delays that might affect the timescales and cost of projects and these may require adjustments to the programme. These risks will be managed as far as is practicable on an ongoing basis.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 Every effort is being made to maximise the use of capital resources to secure the greatest benefit for the Borough and Walsall is on track to spend all allocations within the spend periods. Slippage figures include funding provided through grants for which the spend period is the academic year rather than the financial year.
- 6.2 Other than in exceptional circumstances, schemes detailed in this report are funded in partnership with schools in order to maximise the number of schemes that can be taken forward. Such a partnership approach also takes account of capital resources made available to schools by the DfE through devolved formula capital (DFC). School DFC allocations for 2014/15 are at the same level as the previous year but these are significantly reduced to approximately 20% of those for years prior to 2011/12. In view of this, school contributions will not be at the same level as previous years. These contributions are negotiated on an individual basis, and if agreed already are detailed in **Appendix A** of this report. Individual schemes where school contributions are not yet finalised [or approved by Governing bodies] will be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 6.3 These schemes are to be managed by Property Services who will ensure compliance with all Walsall Council Finance and Contract Rules.

7. Legal implications

The schemes identified in this report will be managed through Walsall Council Property Services and they will ensure that all statutory obligations in relation to the schemes are adhered to. These issues include building regulations, planning approvals, and Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM). This is in addition to ensuring compliance with Walsall Council Financial and Contract Rules and compliance with the European regime and regulations covering the procurement of goods, services and contracts of work.

8. Property implications

The property implications are as listed in the report detail.

9. Staffing implications

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

10. Equality implications

At this stage of the proposal there are no immediate equality implications. Equality analysis, legal and built environmental related requirements and good practice issues will be considered throughout the projects. When procuring the services, as a minimum, we will include contract conditions which:

- Prohibit the contractor from unlawfully discriminating under the Equality Act
- Require them to take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff, suppliers and sub contractors meet their obligations under the Equality Act

11. Consultation

Relevant stakeholders including schools, Diocesan Authorities and Foundation representatives, as appropriate. Walsall Council: Property Services, Transforming Learning and Children's Services Finance.

Background papers

Education Asset Management Plan

Author

Julian Gibbons
Asset Management
Property Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JG' with a stylized flourish.

Simon Neilson
Executive Director
2 September 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M Nazir' with a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor M Nazir
Deputy Leader Portfolio Holder
2 September 2014

Capital Maintenance				
2012/13 Carry Forward			£	4,108,751
2013/14 Allocation			£	2,750,201
2014/15 Allocation			£	2,784,688
Commitments - includes £1,705,000 detailed within this report				9,064,265
Balance Remaining				579,405
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	Allocations £
Beacon Primary School	Roofing Works	£140,000	£5,000	£135,000
Brownhills School	Replacement of Asbestos Roofing	£180,000	£10,000	£170,000
Blackwood	Heating and Upgrade of Gas Supply	£180,000	£5,000	£175,000
Caldmore Primary	Roofing works	£140,000	£5,000	£135,000
Fullbrook Nursery	Lighting Upgrade	£35,000	£5,000	£30,000
Jane Lane School	Lighting Upgrade	£ 90,000	£5,000	£85,000
Lodge Farm Primary	New Heating System	£220,000		£220,000
Leighswood Primary	Roofing works	£120,000	£5,000	£ 115,000
Old Hall Special	Heating and Distribution	£100,000	£ 5,000	£ 95,000
Pheasey Park Farm	Window & Door Replacement	£150,000	£ 10,000	£140,000
Pool Hayes	Roofing works	£140,000	£5,000	£135,000
St Johns Primary	Asbestos Removal & Reinstatement	£60,000		£60,000
Whetstone Fields Primary	Distribution & Emitters	£150,000	£5,000	£145,000