

## Cabinet – 4 April 2012

### Education Capital Programme – 2012/13

**Portfolio:** Councillor Rachel Andrew, Children's Services  
Councillor Adrian Andrew, Regeneration

**Service:** Walsall Children's Services, Serco

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Details of schemes previously approved by Cabinet will be made available to Members in the group rooms. In order to reflect the actual tender costs and final account figures for schemes previously approved by Cabinet, the opportunity has been taken to re-profile funding allocations across the whole programme to ensure that the whole programme of schemes is deliverable within available funding allocations.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the schemes 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 Children's 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 or revenue budgets. All government grants and borrowing powers and much of Section 106 contributions and capital receipts 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.

Opportunities to bid for additional funds sometimes occur and Walsall has been successful in drawing down significant additional capital funding for its school buildings.

Priorities for recommendation to Cabinet are made using the following priorities: health and safety; condition, suitability and sufficiency of the building; basic need; standards; opportunity to combine funding; deprivation; pupil number forecasts; parental preferences; deliverability; opportunities for changes to school status; access; and security.

With the exception of health and safety, these priorities are not in order of importance and usually a combination of a number of priorities result in schemes being recommended for funding.

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 of all Walsall pupils; anticipated changes in school population and curriculum needs; and delivering the Council's landlord duties in community and voluntary controlled schools.

To ensure that recommendations on the use of Education Capital complement the strategies of other Council developments, Property Services colleagues have always been consulted on the content of Education Capital Cabinet reports.

It was agreed by the Corporate Property Board in October 2009 that the recommendations to be made on the use of education capital be discussed at the Board. This suggestion was made to ensure that capital investment being recommended for school property is linked to Partnership and Council priorities.

Whilst all schemes recommended to Cabinet for approval are based on the best information currently available, it is possible that external factors may mean that the proposed works will need to be reviewed in the future.

The government has reduced the amount of DFC distributed to schools. In addition, there may be changes of status in schools that affect how they access capital resources. Any of these may affect the appropriateness or viability of schemes.

Any proposed changes to schemes recommended will be brought back to Cabinet.

- 3.2 In 2012/13, the total capital funding for investment at schools in Walsall is £7,200,207. This figure is below the allocation in 2011/12 but the figure is reduced primarily as a result of the number of Walsall schools changing status to become Academies.

Details of the funding streams and allocations for 2012/13 are provided in the table below.

Basic Need	Capital Maintenance		Devolved Formula Capital for maintained schools		Totals	
Local Authority for all schools	Local Authority maintained schools	LCVAP for VA Schools	Local Authority maintained schools	Voluntary Aided Schools	Local Authority funding	Total for LA and all maintained schools in its area
£2,097,621	£3,530,556	£726,644	£684,079	£161,307	£6,312,256	£7,200,207

These totals are indicative and will be adjusted to take account of pupil numbers in the January 2012 School Census and other changes.

- 3.3 Information from Property Services has identified a number of schools where high priority condition items need to be addressed. The table below details all of the schemes that it is proposed to fund from the Capital Maintenance allocation for 2012/13 and includes the estimated project cost of the works.

School	Scheme	Project Cost
<b>Alumwell Infant School</b>	Heating installation upgrade	£190,000
<b>Alumwell Junior School</b>	Roofing work to flat roof areas	£75,000
<b>Bentley West Primary</b>	Heating installation upgrade to junior block	£150,000
<b>Busill Jones Primary</b>	Electrical installation upgrade	£180,000
<b>Butts Primary</b>	Electrical Installation Upgrade	£100,000
<b>Elmore Green Primary</b>	Heating installation upgrade	£140,000
<b>Little Bloxwich CE Primary</b>	Heating and domestic hot water Installation Upgrade	£150,000
<b>Lower Farm Primary</b>	Electrical installation upgrade & provision of new fire alarm	£140,000
<b>Mossley Primary</b>	Hot and cold water installation upgrade	£50,000
<b>Pheasey Park Farm Primary</b>	Electrical mains upgrade and final phase of electrical installation upgrade. Roofing works to same block as above works	£300,000
<b>Pinfold Street</b>	Heating installation upgrade	£200,000

<b>Salisbury Primary</b>	Electrical installation upgrade, provision of new fire alarm and resolution to fire officer's recommendations	£210,000
<b>St Giles CE Primary</b>	Roofing replacement to pitched roofs and associated repairs to existing parapet walls	£100,000
<b>Woodlands Primary School</b>	Electrical installation upgrade	£150,000

3.4 Following a review of the toilet to pupil ratio at New Invention Infants it has become apparent that the school currently have a shortfall of pupil toilets. It is proposed, at a cost of £70,000, to extend the existing provision to ensure that the school is compliant with the School Premises Regulations [1999].

3.5 LCVAP - Discussions have been held with diocesan authorities to agree a programme of condition (including health and safety) schemes to be funded through the LEA Co-ordinated VA Programme (LCVAP) in 2012/13. The following schemes are considered as the highest priority works in this sector for this financial year.

<b>School</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>
<b>Blue Coat CE Infant School</b>	Upgrade to hot water system	£36,000
<b>Blue Coat CE Infant School</b>	Refurbishment of staff toilets	£16,000
<b>Blue Coat CE Junior School</b>	Window replacement and improvements to internal learning environment	£51,000
<b>Blue Coat CE Performing Arts Specialist College</b>	Legionella prevention measures, window replacements and upgrade to external paths and brickwork	£101,000
<b>St Bernadette's Catholic Primary</b>	Final phase of rewiring works	£35,000
<b>St Peter's Catholic Primary</b>	Roofing works [first phase]	£100,000
<b>St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary</b>	Extension and internal remodelling to create improved learning environments and secure entrance arrangements	£300,000

#### **4. Resource considerations**

##### **4.1 Financial:**

4.1.1 Walsall has been advised of capital allocations for the 2012/13 financial year only although the DfE has confirmed that there is no spend deadline on this funding. Further schemes will be brought forward for consideration by Cabinet when details are finalised.

- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 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 2012/13 are at the same level as 2011/2012 but these had been significantly reduced by approx 20% compared to previous years. In view of this, school contributions will not be at the same level as previous years. These contributions are negotiated on an individual basis by Walsall Children's Services – Serco, and are detailed in **Appendix A** of this report. Any individual schemes where school contributions are not yet finalised will be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 4.1.4 The majority of schemes are to be managed by Walsall Council Property Services who will ensure compliance with all Walsall Council Finance and Contract Rules. For Schemes at Voluntary Aided schools, the trustees of the individual schools are responsible for ensuring compliance with the DfE contractual and financial requirements.

#### 4.2 **Legal:**

- 4.2.1 The majority of 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, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 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.
- 4.2.2 Schemes funded through the Local Education Authority Controlled Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) will be managed by the trustees of the individual schools. The responsibility for complying with the legislation detailed in paragraph 4.2.1 will, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 to Schedule 3 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (which was amended by the Regulatory Reform (Voluntary Aided Schools Liabilities and Funding) (England) Order 2002), be that of the trustees of those schools.

#### 4.3 **Staffing:**

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

### 5. **Citizen impact**

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

## **6. Community safety**

Security issues will be considered as part of the development of schemes.

## **7. Environmental impact**

All schemes will incorporate the use of sustainable resources wherever possible and designs would incorporate developments to reduce the impact on the environment.

## **8. Performance and risk management issues**

### **8.1 Risk:**

8.1.1 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.

### **8.2 Performance management:**

8.2.1 There are specific criteria established by the DfE for the project management of schemes funded by the Capital Programme within the designated timeframe.

## **9. Equality implications**

The proposed schemes would result in improved learning environments for pupils and families in Walsall schools.

## **10. 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**

Melanie Harmitt  
Head of Service  
Walsall Children's Services, Serco

☎ 01922 686285

✉ [melanie.harmitt@walsallcs.serco.com](mailto:melanie.harmitt@walsallcs.serco.com)

Receipts

Signed:  
Executive Director: Pauline Pilkington  
Date: 22 March 2012

Signed:  
Managing Director, Walsall Children's  
Services, Serco: Denise Faulconbridge  
Date: 22 March 2012

Andrew

Signed:  
Portfolio Holder: Councillor R Andrew  
Date: 22 March 2012

<b>Capital Maintenance</b>				<b>2012/13</b>
<b>Allocation</b>				<b>£3,530,556</b>
<b>2011/12 Carry Forward</b>				<b>£1,371,226</b>
<b>Commitments</b>				<b>£0</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>				<b>£4,901,782</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Cost £</b>	<b>School Contribution £</b>	<b>2012/13 Allocation £</b>
Alumwell Infant School	Heating installation upgrade	£ 190,000	TBC	£ 190,000
Alumwell Junior School	Roofing work to flat roof areas	£ 75,000	TBC	£ 75,000
Bentley West Primary	Heating installation upgrade to junior block	£ 150,000	TBC	£ 150,000
Busill Jones Primary	Electrical installation upgrade	£ 180,000	TBC	£ 180,000
Butts Primary	Electrical Installation Upgrade	£ 100,000	TBC	£ 100,000
Elmore Green Primary	Heating installation upgrade	£ 140,000	TBC	£ 140,000
Little Bloxwich CE Primary	Heating and domestic hot water Installation Upgrade	£ 150,000	TBC	£ 150,000



<b>Capital Maintenance</b>				<b>2012/13</b>
<b>Allocation</b>				<b>£3,530,556</b>
<b>2011/12 Carry Forward</b>				<b>£1,371,226</b>
<b>Commitments</b>				<b>£0</b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>				<b>£4,901,782</b>
<b>School</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Cost £</b>	<b>School Contribution £</b>	<b>2012/13 Allocation £</b>
Lower Farm Primary	Electrical installation upgrade & provision of new fire alarm	£ 140,000	TBC	£ 140,000
Mossley Primary	Hot and cold water installation upgrade	£ 50,000	TBC	£ 50,000
New Invention Infant	Additional pupil toilets	£ 70,000	TBC	£ 70,000
Pheasey Park Farm Primary	Electrical mains upgrade and final phase of electrical installation upgrade. Roofing works to same block as above works	£ 300,000	TBC	£ 300,000
Pinfold Street	Heating installation upgrade	£ 200,000	TBC	£ 200,000
Salisbury Primary	Electrical installation upgrade, provision of new fire alarm and resolution to fire officer's recommendations	£ 210,000	TBC	£ 210,000
St Giles CE Primary	Roofing replacement to pitched roofs and associated repairs to existing parapet walls	£ 100,000	TBC	£ 100,000
Woodlands Primary School	Electrical installation upgrade	£ 150,000	TBC	£ 150,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>£ 2,205,000</b>
<b>Balance Available</b>				<b>£ 2,696,782</b>

LCVAP				2012/13
Allocation				£726,644
Commitments				£0
Balance Remaining				£726,644
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution DFC (In addition to Governor's 10%) £	2012/13 Allocation £
Blue Coat CE Infant School	Upgrade to hot water system	£ 36,000		£ 36,000
Blue Coat CE Infant School	Refurbishment of staff toilets	£ 16,000		£ 16,000
Blue Coat CE Junior School	Window replacement and improvements to internal learning environment	£ 51,000		£ 51,000
Blue Coat CE Performing Arts Specialist College	Legionella prevention measures, window replacements and upgrade to external paths and brickwork	£ 101,000		£ 101,000
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary	Final phase of rewiring works	£ 35,000		£ 35,000
St Peter's Catholic Primary	Roofing works [first phase]	£ 100,000		£ 100,000
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	Extension and internal remodelling to create improved learning environments and secure entrance arrangements	£ 300,000		£ 300,000
<b>Total</b>			£ -	<b>£ 639,000</b>
<b>Balance Available</b>				<b>£ 87,644</b>