

Cabinet – 2 July 2014

Education Capital Programme 2014/15 – Further Scheme

Portfolio: Councillor A Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration & Transport

Related portfolios: Councillor M Arif, Children's Services

Service: Asset Management, Property Services

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.

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].

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

School	Scheme	School Contribution	Total scheme cost
St John's CE Primary School	Roofing Works	£10,000	£140,000
Alumwell Nursery School	Roofing Works	£5,000	£40,000
Lighthouse Sure Start Children's Centre	Roofing Works		£40,000

Please note: Due to the financial situation at Lighthouse Sure Start Children's Centre no contribution can 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

- 7.1 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, 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.

8. Property implications

- 8.1 The property implications are as listed in the report detail.

9. Staffing implications

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

10. Equality implications

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

11. Consultation

11.1 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

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Asset Management
Property Services



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Regeneration



Councillor Adrian Andrew
Deputy Leader
Portfolio Holder - Regeneration

Capital Maintenance				
			2012/13 Carry Forward	£ 4,108,751
			2013/14 Allocation	£ 2,750,201
			2014/15 Allocation	£ 2,784,688
			Commitments	£ 7,249,235
			Balance Remaining	£ 2,394,405
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	Allocations £
St John's CE Primary	Roofing works	£ 140,000	£ 10,000	£ 130,000
Alumwell Nursery	Roofing works	£ 40,000	£ 5,000	£ 40,000
Lighthouse Sure Start Children's Centre	Roofing works	£ 40,000	£ 0	£ 40,000