

Proposed Update to the Capital Programme – Four New schemes

1.0 BACKGROUND – CAPITAL STRATEGY

- 1.1 The Education Capital Programme is approved as part of the Business Plan. The very nature of capital planning necessitates alteration and refinement as proposals develop and although the majority of the early years of the Business Plan provide robust assumptions there can be the need to reflect alterations after the Business Plan has been approved and published. It is recognised that for some schemes the planning assumptions may change.
- 1.2 This report forms part of the process set out in the Capital Strategy & Guidance whereby additions to the Capital Plan and the resulting impact on funding streams should first be agreed by Service Committees before being considered by General Purposes Committee.

2.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The Council, as the local Children's Services Authority, has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want them educated in the state funded sector. To achieve this, the Council has to keep the number of places under review and to take appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. This includes maintaining a rolling programme of capital investment for the provision of educational facilities for Cambridgeshire's children and young people.
- 2.2 The following criteria were adopted in 2009 to inform decisions on the relative priority for capital funding.
1. Investment, where required on the grounds of health and safety, where it would avoid the closure of a school or the loss of school capacity in an area where such places are required.
 2. The statutory duty to provide sufficient school places (basic need).
 3. The implementation of statutory changes, for example, an increase in the age range which a school serves.
 4. Investment to support the implementation of recommendations resulting from a review of educational provision, for example the amalgamation of an infant and junior school to create an all-through primary school.
 5. Implementation of new statutory duties or education policy for which there are no other sources of funding available, for example, the need to increase capacity to enable the Council to provide sufficient and suitable free early years and childcare places for children aged 3 and 4 in line with the requirements of the 2006 Childcare Act.
 6. Investment to support a reduction in schools' life-cycle maintenance costs, with priority being given to schools which score 10 in terms of

overall condition deficiencies, followed by those scoring 8 etc.

7. Investment to support a reduction in schools' carbon emissions, energy and water usage by tackling the most inefficient first, using available consumption data.

2.3 Priority is given to those schemes where no suitable alternative options exist or where there would be a long-term revenue consequence as a result of the need to transport children to a school or schools further away. This has necessitated proposed changes to the capital programme agreed by Council in February for the following schemes detailed below.

2.4 The four proposed new basic need schemes which have been identified as required by September 2016 and that require approval to be added to the 2015-16 Capital Plan are:

- Fourfields Primary School, Yaxley: A three classroom expansion at a cost of £1.5m is required, of which £0.5m is expected to be spent in 2015/16. There have been pressures in Yaxley for the past three academic years, which have been accommodated through bulge classes. The existing schools are at capacity and further bulge classes are not an option. Expansion of places in Yaxley had been previously identified in the capital plan but was removed as a permanent solution had yet to be agreed. There will be a phase 2 to add a further 4 classrooms at the school which will be built into the 2016-17 business plan refresh.
- Huntingdon Primary: A three classroom expansion at a cost of £0.9m. Temporary capacity at the school has been provided to cater for increased pupil numbers in Huntingdon. The demographics indicate the need to provide permanent increased capacity at the School to provide 3FE. It had initially been anticipated that additional pupil numbers could be accommodated within existing space, however, on undertaking feasibility work it is now evident that the school needs to be extended. Start on site is anticipated for January 2016 and £0.2m is expected to be spent in 2015/16.
- Grove Primary, Cambridge: A three classroom expansion at a cost of £1.0m is needed. Intake has been 2FE reception for three academic years; revised demographics indicate 2FE at the Grove is required into the foreseeable future. Pre-school provision has been accommodated within the school and therefore a 3 classroom extension will be needed by September 16 to accommodate the older age children as they progress through the school. During 2015-16 it is expected that £0.2m will be spent on the scheme.
- Cambourne: Due to continued growth, further expansion is required to the Hardwick Primary School Campus at a cost of £2.36m. New premises are due to open Sept 2015 and it was anticipated that the second stage would be required at some stage in the future. Pupil forecast numbers indicate the school is filling more quickly than forecast, therefore it is proposed to complete the project in one phase rather than two. This will have a saving of around £1m and provide for 2FE. The majority of the spend on the scheme will be incurred during 2015-16.

2.5 The table below identifies the additional prudential borrowing requirement to fund these four schemes over the next 2 years.

Prudential Borrowing changes	2015-16 £000	2016-17 £000
New Schemes.	3,200	2,560

- 2.6 The increased prudential borrowing requirements for the four new schemes will have an impact on debt charges. The table below shows this impact on revenue for the next 5 years.

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Debt Charge to Revenue	144	479	469	458	448

- 2.7 All other schemes costs will be reviewed and updated as part of the 2016-17 business planning cycle.