

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT
1 DECEMBER 2009**

**PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WOOD FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL,
OXFORD**

Report by Children, Young People & Families

Introduction

1. Wood Farm Primary School has a published admission number of 40 children. Due to rising numbers across Oxford City, 45 places were allocated to the school for September 2009. Primary Care Trust records and the annual census of local children in early years settings show that the demand for primary school places in Oxford is rising, and schools in this area will not have enough room in future years.
2. A report (Annex 1) submitted to Cabinet on 20th May 2008 identified Wood Farm Primary School/Slade Nursery School as one of the first two schools in Oxfordshire to be rebuilt as part of the government-funded Primary Capital Programme. A revised version of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change, including Wood Farm Primary School as a priority investment project, was approved by the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement on 10 June 2008 (Annexes 2-4). The cost of rebuilding Wood Farm Primary School has been included in subsequent copies of the CYP&F forward capital plan.
3. The new proposal is to use this opportunity to also expand the school to help meet the growing demand for school places in Oxford.

The Proposal

4. The proposal is to increase the admission number from 40 to 60 children, on a permanent basis from September 2010. This will eventually increase the school's total roll from its current 252 children in Years 1-6 (September 2009 pupil census) to a maximum of 360.
5. To accommodate this growth in pupil numbers, Wood Farm School will be rebuilt with 12 classrooms for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils, as well as Foundation Stage rooms and more places at the Slade Nursery School.

Representations

6. During the informal consultation phase (10 September 2009 – 22 October 2009) a meeting was held at the school for parents to discuss the plans with the headteacher and County Council officers.

7. A consultation document (Annex 5) was sent to parents of children at Wood Farm Primary School, as well as to local councillors, other primary schools and early years providers in the Wood Farm area; it was also available on the OCC website. Six responses were received, none of which objected to the proposal. The only concerns expressed were for the school to be supported through this period of major change, and for adequate parking to be provided.
8. As no objections in relation to the proposal have been received, the decision on whether to publish a formal statutory proposal is referred to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement rather than the Cabinet.

Making a Decision

9. As this is a proposal to increase the size of the school by more than 25%, it is subject to statutory procedures, as established by The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendments)(England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008).
10. A decision is now required as to whether to publish formal proposals for this expansion. If approved, a statutory notice would be published, followed by a formal consultation period of four weeks. The decision-making power in terms of determining the notice will lie with the Cabinet, and a report will be put to the Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement if no representations are received, or to Cabinet if representations are received, for a final decision in due course.
11. The Cabinet must be satisfied that the statutory consultation has been carried out prior to the publication of the notice.

Financial and Staff Implications

12. The August 2009 forward capital plan, as approved by Cabinet on 20th October 2009 (Annex 6) shows an allocation of £11,500,000 to rebuild Wood Farm Primary School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. **The Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement is RECOMMENDED to approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Wood Farm Primary School, Oxford.**

JIM CROOK

Interim Director for Children, Young People & Families

Background papers: Annex 1 - Report to Cabinet, May 2008; Annex 2 – Report to Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, June 2008; Annex 3 - Investment priorities approved by Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement June 2008;

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Annex 4 - Statement of Decision by Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, June 2008; Annex 5 - consultation document; Annex 6: Capital programme August 2009

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November 2009

CABINET – 20 MAY 2008

PRIMARY CAPITAL STRATEGY FOR CHANGE CONSULTATION

Report by Director for Children, Young People & Families

Introduction

1. This report supplements the consultation document on the Primary Capital Programme - Strategy for Change (PCP-SC) which has been sent out to stakeholders. The deadline for the return of responses is 9 May 2008. The feedback obtained from the consultation (see Annex 1) for the letter sent to stakeholders and questionnaire to shape responses) will be analysed to inform the final version of the PCP-SC for Cabinet approval by means of a delegated decision on 3 June 2008, prior to final submission to the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) by 16 June 2008.

Content of the Consultation Document

2. The document has sections covering the following:
 - The local perspective
 - Baseline analysis
 - Long-term aims
 - Approach to change
 - Initial investment priorities
 - Conclusion
3. It takes into account developments in the Children's Services agenda, such as: extended schools; the five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes; and Early Years developments, including involvement of the private and voluntary sectors.
4. The document has been written in accordance with the guidelines issued by the DCSF in December 2007. The guidelines make it very clear that Oxfordshire must give priority to capital investment that will support raising achievement in schools and tackling underperformance.
5. The purpose of the document is to engage the stakeholders with the principles underlying the strategy, to obtain their support and feedback in order to inform the final version to be submitted to the DCSF.
6. The DCSF has to approve the strategy to enable Oxfordshire to receive the first tranche of funding for 2009-10 as part of the Capital Programme for schools.
7. Members may find it helpful to focus on sections three and five of the consultation document to ensure that they agree with the long term aims;

priorities; and the key criteria for determining the priorities for investment. The priorities and criteria are given on page 20 of the consultation document. The criteria are intended to measure the level of need experienced by children and families for each school based on the five ECM indicators; physical buildings; and strategic asset issues.

8. There are three key criteria; with Enjoy & Achieve, reflecting the DCSF priority to raise achievement at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2; and Physical buildings, taking into account the condition, suitability and appropriateness of buildings; having the highest scores. The next highest score criterion is for strategic asset issues to match demand to provision, including schools with surplus capacity and those which will need to expand to meet growth requirements. This will include popular and successful schools.
9. Each locality has been scored in accordance with the criteria and the result is a ranking (see Annex 3) for prioritising capital investment. The first four localities in the ranking with the highest scores are also the four localities which have already received full locality reviews prior to the drafting of the consultation document.
10. At this stage, but subject to feedback from the consultation, Oxford South East is at the top of the ranking. Within this locality two schools, Bayard's Hill and Wood Farm, have been identified as the first two possible projects for the PCP-SC. Feedback on the locality review findings together with those of Cowley/Iffley; Headington/Wheatley; and North Oxford/Cumnor will be obtained at a summit meeting for all four Oxford localities on 3 May 2008. Further full locality reviews can be determined when the DCSF response to the PCP-SC has been received.

Risk Management

11. A detailed risk assessment can be found in the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Primary Review. The main risk arises if the strategy does not meet the DCSF criteria. However, as the guidelines have been followed very closely and as a full consultation is being undertaken, the risk is considerably minimised.

Financial and Staff Implications

12. The indicative capital allocation is £5.8m for 2009-10, and £2.628m for 2010-11. Subsequently, for 2010-13 a further £32.148m is provisionally allocated.

RECOMMENDATION

13. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **note the content of the consultation document, the questionnaire format for stakeholder responses and the range of stakeholders contacted for response;**

- (b) approve the locality priority list for capital investment, as suggested by the criteria set out in Annex 3; and**
- (c) agree to delegate to the Cabinet Member for School Improvement the decision to approve the final version of the strategy, which will include the locality priority list for capital investment, for submission to the DCSF by 16 June 2008.**

JANET TOMLINSON
Director for Children, Young People & Families

Background papers: DCSF Guidance

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May 2008

CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT – 10 JUNE 2008

PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME – STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

Report by Director for Children, Young People & Families

Introduction

1. The Cabinet received the consultation document sent out to stakeholders at its meeting on 20 May and considered the contents. It focussed particularly on Section 5 and the criteria to determine capital investment priorities within localities. Members voiced concerns about the need to balance the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) requirement to raise standards and tackle underperformance with the need to reflect local Oxfordshire priorities in terms of improving schools with buildings in poor condition.
2. The Cabinet agreed the following:
 - (a) to instruct officers to undertake further work on the criteria for capital investment (and hence the local priority list) and to include a list of schools for capital investment;
 - (b) to delegate to the Member for Schools Improvement the decision to approve the final version of the Strategy which will include the locality priority list for capital investment for submission to the DCSF by 16 June 2008 .

Feedback from the Consultation

3. A summary of the findings of the consultation is given at Annex 1 The Strategy has been amended to reflect the feedback including views of the Primary Review Board and the Cabinet instructions. In respect of Section 5 – Initial Investment Priorities, the criteria have been changed as follows:
 - The Every Child Matters (ECM) Enjoy & Achieve criteria are now based on data over 4 years to include trends in school performance. The maximum score remains 3 points.
 - The ECM outcomes Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Positive Contribution, and Economic Well Being have been replaced with a sliding scale application of the DCSF deprivation index. The maximum score has been reduced to 2 points.

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- The maximum score for Physical Buildings with outstanding condition work equal to £200 per square metre or above has been increased to 2, thus increasing the maximum score for the whole section to 4 points.
 - The maximum score for strategic asset issues have been increased to 3 points.
 - The overall maximum score remains 12 points.
4. In the light of the above revised criteria, the priority list of localities for capital investment has changed with Thame/Watlington leading the list followed by Abingdon/Berinsfield, Headington/Wheatley and Oxford South East. It is proposed that the top two localities receive full locality reviews as soon as the DCSF approval has been given for the Primary Capital Programme – Strategy for Change (PCP- SfC), with a suggested timeline of an October start to determine further capital expenditure in the two localities following on from the St Andrew's and Mill Lane projects, which are already in the Capital Programme. Bayard's Hill and Wood Farm remain in the first wave of expenditure as they have been briefed and their locality Headington/Wheatley has already received a full locality review.
 5. The Member should note however that the localities provide only a framework for highlighting capital investment priorities. Within the localities capital projects are based on schools with the greatest needs in terms of raising standards, deprivation and improving the condition of their buildings. A list of schools currently requiring capital investment within the PCP is given in the spreadsheet supporting Section 5 of the SfC in Annex 2 in accordance with DCSF requirements.
 6. Thus, it can be seen that schools with the most pressing needs will receive a priority listing though their actual locality may be of a lower general priority.

Financial and Staff Implications

7. The indicative capital allocation is £5.8m for 2009-10 and £2.628m for 2010-11. The provision of capital allocation, subject to DCSF agreement, is given in Section 5 of the PCP SfC in Annex 2.

Timeline and Next Steps

8. The deadline for the submission of the PCP strategy to the DCSF is 16 June. All Local Authority (LA) strategies will be independently evaluated and it is intended that LAs will be notified of the outcome by the end of September 2008.
9. There will be three categories of response:
 - (a) approval without conditions;
 - (b) approval with conditions;

- (c) approval withheld until the LA has re-submitted an amended strategy with DCSF guidance.
10. It is not the DCSF intention to reduce funding for any LAs with strategies that require further work in the light of (ii) and (iii) above.

RECOMMENDATION

11. **The Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) **indicate that he approves the changes in criteria as set out in paragraph 3 of the report;**
 - (b) **approve the Primary Capital Programme – Strategy for Change for submission to the DCSF including the revised criteria, the revised locality priority list for capital investment, and the completed spreadsheet detailing the school projects including the first wave of expenditure.**

JANET TOMLINSON
Director for Children, Young People & Families

Background papers: None

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29 May 2008