

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Friday, 20 January 2012 at 10.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Dave Sexon

<i>Councillors:</i>	Janet Godden Neil Owen M. Altaf-Khan	Marilyn Badcock Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor Don Seale	Sarah Hutchinson Nicholas P. Turner Michael Waive
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<i>Co-optees:</i>	Mr Chris Bevan 2 Vacancies	Mrs Sue Matthew	Kathleen Medlock
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<i>By Invitation</i>	Carole Thomson	Brenda Williams
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Notes:

Date of next meeting: 28 February 2012

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	- Councillor Ann Bonner E.Mail: ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	- Lisa Michelson, Tel: (01865) 815673 lisa.michelson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark.

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

January 2012

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 8)
4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**
5. **New Joint Commissioning Arrangements** (Pages 9 - 14)
10:15

The Committee will be joined by Sara Livadeas, Deputy Director, Joint Commissioning as well as Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead & Head of Joint Commissioning for a Q&A regarding recent changes.

6. **Capital Programme Update** (Pages 15 - 18)
10:45

Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone, Capital, Strategy & Transformation Manager, will provide an updated position on the Capital Programme as it relates to the Children, Education and Families directorate.

7. **Academies / Financial Implications**
11:15

Simon Pickard, CEF Finance Business Partner, will give the committee an update on the financial implications of schools opting for academy status.

INFORMATION SHARE

11:50

8. **Close of Meeting**
12:00

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, i.e. where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 15 December 2011 commencing at 2.30 pm and finishing at 4.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor Sarah Hutchinson
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner
Councillor Michael Waite

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillor Charles Mathew for Councillor Neil Owen
Councillor Ian Hudspeth for Councillor Marilyn Badcock

Co-opted Members:

By Invitation: Carole Thomson

Officers: Jim Leivers
Janet Paine
Lorna Baxter
Sue Scane
Lisa Michelson
Simon Pickard
Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone

Whole of meeting

Part of meeting

Agenda Item Officer Attending

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

171/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda No. 1)

Cllr Hudspeth for Cllr Babcock

Cllr Mathew for Cllr Owen

172/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

None.

173/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 3)

None.

174/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2012/13 - 2016/17

(Agenda No. 4)

Cllr Chapman began the meeting with overall remarks on the budget process. The committee then received presentations from Lorna Baxter, Head of Corporate Finance and Jim Leivers, Acting Director of the Children, Education and Families Directorate.

The committee began their discussion with the capital plan with clarification coming from Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone, Capital, Strategy & Transformation Manager for the Environment and Economy Directorate. The committee expressed concern that the capital plan might not address needed projects in schools. It was also mentioned that recent clarification of capital funding from the education settlement meant that the figures in the papers as presented would be changing. The committee decided to return to the capital discussion as part of their meeting scheduled for the 20th of January with the updated papers.

Members of the committee then had individual discussions on each of the proposed variations to the Medium Term Financial Plan which related to children's services as indicated in Annex 4 of the papers.

From this discussion the committee decided:

- To ensure that the effectiveness of the HUB model for service delivery remain a priority on the work programme.
- That the committee receive information regarding outdoor learning centres which is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in January at its meeting in February.
- That the committee would engage in the upcoming review on children's centres as part of the work programme.

The committee also wished to recognise Jan Paine, Deputy Director Children's Services - Education and Early Intervention as she leaves the county council for another position.

Overall the committee:

Had no further comments regarding the Capital Plan pending a further discussion in January,

Felt that frontline services were protected and accepted the proposals.
Cllr Turner had a further comment that, 'We recognise that there are still large potential pressures in regards to government announcements such as the academy programme, and request that we are kept updated as the figures and situation become clearer, and fully consulted on any major changes that they may include.'

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 November 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.00pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Dave Sexon (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Marilyn Badcock
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner
Councillor Michael Waine
Councillor Liz Brighouse OBE

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Melinda Tilley

Co-opted Members: Mrs Sue Matthew

By Invitation: Carole Thomson
Brenda Williams

Officers:

Whole of meeting Jan Paine
 Jim Leivers
 Lisa Michelson

Part of meeting

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

161/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Cllr Hutchinson who was replaced by Cllr Brighouse. Apologies were also received from Cllr Owen and Chris Bevan.

162/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

Cllr Brighthouse - Director of Oxford Learning...a Community Interest Company

163/11 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

Carole Thomson and Brenda Williams were in attendance.

Committee members asked about a requested report of the distribution of child protection across schools to come back to the committee. This was agreed to be tabled at the next meeting.

164/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

There were no speakers or petitions.

165/11 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(Agenda No. 5)

The Director's Update was presented by both the Deputy Director, Children's Services – Education and Early Intervention, Jan Paine as well as Jim Leivers, Deputy Director – Children and Families.

Jim Leivers (JL) began speaking to slides in a presentation on current financial directorate position. He reported that the directorate is on track to deliver the savings as agreed.

Discussion followed around the impact these savings were having on the service outcomes. It was agreed that the budget meeting in December would have a focus on understanding the impact of implemented financial decisions as well as the impact of the current proposals.

Jan Paine (JP) delivered a presentation on the recent educational attainment results. She mentioned that there would be a more detailed results discussion taking place for all councillors on the 5th of December.

While the foundation results were improved from the prior year, the results for the other examinations were more disappointing. Particularly, the data seemed to indicate that as a group, Free School Meals students seem to have lost pace with the improvement that all groups have seen in recent years and that other groups continued to see this year.

The committee discussed that the foundation successes could be at least partly attributed to council's deliberate focus on the early years and the impact that initiatives like children's centres may be making. There were also questions as to how the pupil premium financing structure was playing into the resources available to disadvantaged students at schools. Additionally questions were asked around the relative success that the council's statistical neighbours have had in the latest results. Specifically, what pressures Oxfordshire may face that others apparently do not might be.

Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement, Cllr Melinda Tilley joined the discussion to inform the committee about the imminent Education Strategy due to begin consultation in the upcoming week. She invited the committee to participate in the consultation and to support in what she hoped would be a community-wide effort to improve education for the county.

The Committee agreed to champion the strategy and decided to take up the resulting consultation and strategy roll-out as part of its work programme. Provisionally, this would be a review to take place after the next set of exam results in the autumn 2012.

166/11 KS1 REPORT FINALISATION AND NEXT STEPS

(Agenda No. 6)

Jan Paine reported that the recommendations put forward in the KS1 report have already been endorsed by officers in the directorate and have been factored into the newly written Education Strategy.

A few final changes were put forward to the report. Roger Edwards, Scrutiny Officer, and author of the report, agreed to incorporate those, and Jan Paine assured the committee that these would also be fed through to the Education Strategy.

167/11 EQUALITY DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE UPDATE

(Agenda No. 7)

Jan Paine gave a presentation on the recent directorate restructure of the early intervention service.

The committee discussed that this new structure was compatible with other changes to the directorate way of working through linking with hubs. The streamlined team will provide support across the community.

168/11 WORK PROGRAMME REFRESH

(Agenda No. 8)

The committee discussed the draft work programme refresh and several items were added. A discussion followed around whether the timeliness of some of the items

meant that an extraordinary meeting should be scheduled for January, prior to final budget decisions.

The committee determined they would like an additional meeting scheduled in January and the proposed changes to the work programme can be seen in the attached revised schedule.

It was also agreed that Lisa Michelson would circulate a copy of the revised Anti-Bullying Strategy to the committee. This strategy is currently out for consultation.

169/11 FORWARD PLAN
(Agenda No. 9)

170/11 CLOSE OF MEETING
(Agenda No. 10)

The Meeting finished at 1.00

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

Children's Scrutiny Committee meeting: 20th January 2012

Developing Joint Commissioning in Oxfordshire County Council

Introduction

The aim of this paper is to:

- Brief members on the proposed restructure of joint commissioning across Children, Education and Families (CEF) and Social and Community Services (SCS).
- Update members of the current developments around the NHS and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Vision

Oxfordshire County Council's Business Strategy set out the challenges ahead and how we needed to tackle them to ensure that we continue to serve the people of Oxfordshire well. This included:

- Reducing management structures starting with senior management and then more generally reviewing the layers and spans of control of managers across the council
- Supporting new ways of working and empowering staff to work differently
- Driving our budget and efficiencies programme
- Keeping a focus on the end user of our services.¹

Last year CCMT agreed that there would be benefits in bringing together commissioning for children and young people with commissioning for adult and older people's services. Through the SCS/CEF reorganisation we are aiming to achieve better outcomes for children and their families, (as well as for adults and older people in Oxfordshire). We have to deliver greater efficiency both in the way we use our resources and the way in which we work. We want to create a better work environment for staff by establishing clearer focus and accountability. As resources reduce, we need to work flexibly and to have more delegated authority to make decisions closer to the front line - closer to those who use our services. Greater clarity of roles and responsibilities would be required if we are to strengthen our joint commissioning function. There were many policy changes affecting our organisation such as Lord Laming's review of child protection and the personalisation agenda in adult social care.

This proposed reorganisation brings together commissioning for adults and children, in preparation for potentially greater integration with the NHS. It brings together the activities that support commissioning. This proposal will work across CEF and S&CS on areas where functions can be shared to achieve greater impact and efficiency and support the Council's aspiration to protect front line services (appendix 1).

Anticipated benefits of the reorganisation include:

- Better outcomes for people who will receive seamless services that are available for all ages and for whole families from the Council and its key partners.

¹ Oxfordshire County Council Business Strategy 2010 – 2015 June

- More responsive services for people through the timely involvement of service users and other stakeholders in all stages of the commissioning cycle.
- Services that are based on needs analysis and built on evidence of what works.
- Services that are safe and of good quality, promoting choice and self-determination for those that use them.
- Increased value from public money and/or reduced costs through efficient and effective needs analysis, procurement and contracting.
- Greater transparency of commissioning decisions.
- A smaller, more efficient streamlined commissioning function within the Council.
- A coherent offer to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in terms of future joint working.

Changes in the NHS and Public Health

Changes in the NHS and especially the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups are driving us towards further improving commissioning and procurement practices. A recent consultation paper on reforming the 'commissioning architecture' in the NHS promotes the development of a Commissioning Support Organisation to provide services to Clinical Commissioners and we need to ensure that we are in a strong position to work alongside and join up more with our Clinical Commissioning colleagues.

In addition Public Health will be transferring from the NHS to Local Authorities in 2013. The government wants local authorities to be responsible once again, for the wellbeing of their populations, tackling health inequalities, influencing wider social determinants of health and using their population focus to shape services to meet local need². Much of this will be delivered through a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this will also bring with it a range of new commissioning responsibilities that will need to be supported.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

The Health and Social Care Bill requires upper tier Local Authorities to create Health and Wellbeing Boards. The responsibilities for the Board can be summarised as:

- Preparing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for the whole population of Oxfordshire, covering all age groups. This will drive the development and delivery of services to meet agreed priorities;
- Ensuring that there is a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that provides, for the Board, a strong evidence base and a clear analysis of population need. This will help in agreeing priorities and objectives for the Board.
- Having oversight of the joint commissioning arrangements for health and social care across the County.

The Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board is established and held its first meeting in November. A workshop on 24th January will look at priorities and ways of working for a new Children and Young People's Partnership Board. This will aim to build on what

² Public Health in Local Government, Department of Health, December 2011

has worked with the original Children and Young People’s Trust and will also want to strengthen the approach to key priorities such as raising attainment at all key stages, integrating early intervention services and protecting the most vulnerable young people. Most importantly the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board will need to work alongside the new Public Involvement Board and the new Health Improvement Board.

In order to do this the Partnership Board will need to develop and deliver a Joint Commissioning Strategy. This will identify at a high level the range of outcomes that need to be improved and how services will need to change in order to meet the challenges of the current financial climate as well as the changing patterns of need and demand from the population.

Next steps and practical consideration

The county council has been moving towards becoming a commissioning organisation over the last 20 years. In 1990 the implementation of Community Care legislation

led to the majority of services for adults (at least 90%) being delivered by external providers under a contract with the Council. For children services the situation is reversed with approximately 10% of the controllable budget being spent externally on activities such as Early Years support, respite and individual placements for young people with complex needs. For both adults and children many services are commissioned jointly with the NHS using pooled budgets which are jointly managed. In recognition of these differences it is anticipated that the pace of change will be different by type of activity. However it is agreed that our approach to contract management and our communication with external providers needs to be strengthened across the board.

Timetable

An outline timetable for these changes in shown below:

November 2011	Shadow HWB Board meets for first time.
January 2012	Workshop to set up new Children and Young People’s Partnership Board.
February 2012	Staff consultation on new Joint Commissioning structure commences. Work on new Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People begins.

March 2012	<p>First meeting of Children and Young People's Partnership Board.</p> <p>Final structure for Joint Commissioning published.</p> <p>Second meeting of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>
April 2012	<p>Draft Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People published for consultation.</p> <p>Recruitment to new structure begins</p>

Conclusion

Comments are welcome on these proposals.

Sarah Breton
Lead Commissioner, Children and Young People

Sarah Livadeas
Deputy Director, Joint Commissioning

Appendix 1

Commissioning. There are a number of definitions of commissioning. CCMT have agreed that the definition of commissioning in Oxfordshire is the “strategic activity involved in preparing/ orchestrating resources to enable outcomes to achieve best value” and that it covers all the stages of the commissioning cycle represented in the diagram below.



By building our services around this model, we can define need; identify the gaps between need and services available and then we can provide or arrange for the provision of those services. Throughout all of this planning and delivery cycle, it is essential that we have input from those who use our services and our partners.

It is must have feedback about our performance, including from service users, giving us information about the quality as well as that quantity of services delivered. This feedback shapes services and the strategy as a whole.

The services need to provide high quality experiences for local people and to record achievement (whether through schools, child protection procedures or home support services for example), so that we are able to demonstrate progress locally and collect evidence for planning and regulatory purposes.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CEF CAPITAL PROGRAMME- 2011/12 to 2016/17

Report by the Director for Children, Education & Families

Purpose

1. This report informs the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee of the CEF Capital Programme. It focuses on three key areas:
 - a) The overview of the proposed CEF Capital Programme for council approval in February 2012;
 - b) The changes made to the proposed CEF Capital Programme since the last update to the Committee on 15th December 2011;
 - c) Future considerations and uncertainties in the context of the development of the Capital Investment Strategy

Background

2. On 15th December 2011, the Committee considered the proposed investment priorities for the CEF Capital Programme. The Committee also noted that the Department of Education (DfE) has announced a £3.514m reduction in the settlement on 14th December 2011. During the meeting, it was reported that this reduction would likely to be reflected in the level of investment in the Schools Structural Maintenance Programme over the 5-year programme planning period.
3. This report follows that discussion and informs the Committee on the revised investment proposals following the DfE announcement.

The Overview of the CEF Capital Programme & Key Investment Blocks

4. The Council manages a 5-year Capital Programme and the CEF Capital Programme is the largest part of this overall programme. Overall, the Council plans to invest just under £169m¹ in the CEF Programme between 2011/12 and 2016/17. This equates to 46.7% of the total planned capital investment over the same period.²
5. The key investment priority for the CEF Capital Programme is the Basic Needs Programme (£41.7m). This follows the fact that one of the key investment challenges for the Council is the rapid and substantial growth in demand for primary school places forecast over the period 2011/12 – 2016/17 in Oxford City, Witney, Wantage and Henley in particular. Although, there remain surplus school places across the secondary schools estate, a general demand for secondary places is likely to emerge from 2015/16 onwards or earlier in some areas given pressures in some areas due to the mis-match between available

¹ This sum excludes the schools led investment of £20.390m.

² This percentage level is calculated on the Directorates Capital Programme (£361.7m).

places and the demand pattern. Similarly, a substantial part of the CEF Capital Programme (£51.5m) is composed of schemes directly related to the housing growth. These are schemes are primarily funded by developer contributions. In February 2011, the Council also agreed to create a Schools Structural Maintenance Programme. The proposed investment total for this programme is £29.4m as per cabinet papers dated 17th January 2012. This programme is dependent on the number of schools that convert to academy status over the course of the five year period and the level of basic needs pressure in the future. All together, these three blocks of investment represent 72.6% of the overall investment total for the CEF Capital Programme.

The DfE Announcement & Its Impact on the CEF Capital Programme

1. On 14th December, both capital maintenance and basic needs allocations were reduced by £1.735m and 1.778m respectively for 2012/13. Because the Council plans the programme across a 5-year period, the longer term implication of these reductions had to be addressed as part of the Service & Resource Planning process.
2. The reduction in the capital maintenance allocation was a due to the schools that have converted to academy status or are about to do so. This position indicates that the DfE is likely to manage the capital funding for academies at the central level and therefore relatively large reductions may be expected on an annual basis. The scale of the reduction also meant that it is more appropriate to manage the risk adjustment to this funding stream in line with what may be the possible mix of providers of education in the sector in Oxfordshire in 2016/17. Therefore, the Council revised its resources assumptions to expect about a 50% reduction (from £11.580m in 2011/12 to £5.790m in 2016/17) in the level of capital maintenance allocation over a 5-year period.
3. This reduction in the estimated level of funding meant that the Council needed to change the level of investment in the schools' structural maintenance programme. The programme is now projected to be reduced in size on an annual basis (from £7.654m to £3.250m per annum). *The cumulative impact of this reduction is £14.270m.*³ This revision is in line with the Council's earlier decision on adjustments to the size of this programme.
4. The reduction in the basic needs allocation is mainly due to a change in the methodology for allocating funding for pupil places; the methodology now includes both numbers on roll and capacity data. In order to reduce the impact of this reduction on the overall programme, the size of Schools Access Initiative Programme has now been

³ This sum includes a reduction of £10.366m in the current SSM programme and a reduction of £3.904m in 2016/17 SSM programme expenditure estimates.

reduced by over 50%⁴ to £3.166m across the six year period (including the current year). This adjustment enabled the Council to match the reduction in the basic needs settlement without having a further impact on the Basic Needs Programme and limit the level of reduction in the Schools Structural Maintenance Programme.

5. The table below shows that proposed investment priorities for the CEF Programme following these changes:

Priority Investment Proposals	17/01/2012 £m
Basic Needs Programme	10.630
Schools Structural Maintenance Programme (Including £500k contribution to School Energy Reduction Programme)	3.750
Schools Access Initiative Programme	0.400
Health & Safety Programme	0.400
Schools Energy Reduction Programme (Prudentially Funded Element)	1.000
Contribution to the School Led Development in Great Tew Primary (Conditional Approval)	0.100
Total	16.280

The Capital Strategy - Future Consideration and Uncertainties

6. It is difficult to predict the changes to future years' local government finance settlements for local authorities in this area given the ongoing education capital review. Therefore, it is important to remember that both the size of the programme and the resources figures need to be taken as provisional at this stage as they are subject to future years' settlements by central government, the realisation of an estimated level of contributions from external parties and the delivery of the disposal programme.
7. The future shape of the education sector is still uncertain as the policy framework continues to evolve and a new market develops. Free Schools and Academies proposals will influence the Council's strategy around how investment is shaped across the schools' estate in the medium to long-term. Over the coming years, the Council will shift away from being the direct provider of education towards being a commissioner.

⁴ The total reduction from 2011/12 to 2016/17 is £3.51m which includes £2.766m in the current capital programme and £0.742m in 2016/17 estimated programme total.

8. There will be new models of school organisation including the creation of more federations, trusts and academies and other arrangements that generate greater collaboration between early years, primary, secondary and post-16 providers. These models will be encouraged as a means of improving the educational experience of children and young people. These changes to school organisations are likely to have an impact on the required school infrastructure and lead to the use of available capital funding to support more collaborative working among schools and other education partners.

Jim Leivers
Director for Children, Education & Families

Contact Officers:

Roy Leach, Schools Organisation & Planning Manager, CEF, 01865 816458
Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone, Capital Investment & Business Development
Manager, E&E, 07824 416661

January 2012