

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 20 March 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Young People
SUBJECT Primary Capital Programme
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of the Primary Capital Programme and an outline of the Governments submission requirements for a Strategy for Change to secure primary capital funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 **The requirements of the Strategy for Change are noted.**

2.2 **Approval be given to developing the draft Strategy for Change in partnership with schools, the dioceses and other key stakeholders.**

2.3 **A further report be provided to the Board in June 2008 detailing the draft Primary Capital Strategy.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

3.1.1 All authorities are required by Government to develop a Primary Capital Programme. This Programme aims to ensure primary schools play a lead role in the heart of their communities, through offering local services, providing a 21st learning environment particularly in ICT, developing world class standards and promoting personalisation, flexibility, diversity and choice.

3.1.2 As part of the Programme consideration needs to be given to local demography, pupil numbers and school standards.

3.1.3 As part of the Programme all Local Authorities are required to produce a Strategy for Change (Primary) which must be formally endorsed by the Council, the Diocesan Authorities and a majority of primary schools.

3.1.4 The consultation on the Strategy must include schools, Children's Centres, parents, Diocese, Trusts and other promoters, Primary Care Trusts, Community Health Care providers, Early Years Childcare Providers and potential promoters of new primary schools.

3.2 Strategy for Change

- 3.2.1 The Strategy for Change covers five main elements; local perspective, baseline analysis, long term aims, approach to change and initial investment priorities.
- 3.2.2 **The local perspective.** This should provide a succinct overview of the Authority's aims and objectives for primary education in the 21st century and briefly describe the area, its people and its primary schools.
- 3.2.3 **Baseline analysis.** This analysis should illustrate the Authority's starting point, both in terms of what is good about primary education now and what needs to be improved. It should be based on a thorough analysis of school level data on educational performance, deprivation, places, building condition and suitability, links with early year's providers, extended services and co-location of primary schools, children's centres and wider children's services.
- 3.2.4 **Long-term aims.** This should outline what the Authority has identified as its investment priorities for the next 14 years to transform education through better facilities and the pattern and type of school. It should also show how this investment supports national policy objectives and local priorities. The local aims need to be compatible with the national aims.
- 3.2.5 **Approach to change.** This section addresses how the Authority will run the PCP to ensure that primary education changes from the baseline position to the achievement of the long-term aims. It must cover governance, consultation and capacity building, design, sustainability, ICT, procurement and value for money. A risk assessment must be undertaken in delivery of the Strategy for Change.
- 3.2.6 **Initial investment priorities.** The priorities for the first four years should be identified and how these contribute to the long-term aims. This section should specify the specific school projects for 2009/10 and 2010/11. In addition the total funding that the Authority will be committing or leveraging from other sources needs identifying. Evidence of joined up contributions of other capital funding both from national and local resources needs to be provided. Local Authorities should also consider the scope for joining up with community health investment.

3.3 Funding

- 3.3.1 It is expected that the Authority will develop a strategic approach to capital investment for primary schools over 14 years. For 2009/2010 and 2010/11 primary capital funding is available and indicative sums have been allocated pending a successful Strategy for Change Submission. Funding from 2011/12 will be subject to public spending review.

PCP Capital Funds	2009/10	2010/11
Indicative figures	£3,000,000.00	£5,378,000.00

- 3.3.2 Other capital funding streams which could be used to contribute towards the PCP include; DCSF formula programmes to authorities, devolved

capital of schools, contributions from voluntary aided schools, the single capital pot, prudential borrowing, investment from Big Lottery or other organisations such as the EU, any local revenue available, planning gain and capital receipts.

3.4 Timeline

3.4.1 The timescale for the submission of the Strategy for Change is **prescribed by the Department of Children Schools and Families** and is as follows

16 th June 2008	Authority submission to DCSF Strategy for Change to secure indicative funding for 2009/10 & 10/11.
September 2008	DCSF to notify Local Authority confirmation of approval of Strategy for Change. Approved; Approved with conditions, which confirms indicative allocations; Or not approved where a complete new submission to be provided.
September 2008	LA to undertake further work on strategy; proceed with planning, procurement and design.
September 2008	DCSF to publish on-line suite of guidance on planning, finance, design, sustainability, procurement, ICT and capacity building.
April 2009	Capital investment fund available to all Local Authorities subject to approval of their Strategy for Change.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding levels are indicative. For 2009/10 funding of £3m has been identified and just under £5.4m for 2010/2011. Funding will only be confirmed once the Strategy for Change has been approved by the DCSF and the pupil numbers finalised.

4.2 Funding for 2011/12 onwards will be subject to public funding decisions.

4.3 There is no revenue funding for this programme.

4.4 To make most effective use of school premises joint funding with other partners both internal and external is seen as essential.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Authority must identify how it intends to address demographic change, falling rolls, the Standards Agenda as well as increase the

diversity, choice and access to popular schools. It needs to consider a range of provision such as Trusts, Federations, amalgamations and all-age provision.

- 5.2 Proposals will need to be developed on the future primary school organisation. School and public consultation will then need to be undertaken.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Primary Capital Programme contributes directly to priority SM5: Transforming Learning Opportunities for all Children.

Increase choice, diversity, inclusion and high standards and reduce the surplus capacity within Halton schools.

Transform the learning environment: workforce, buildings, learning resources and technology.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

By providing 21st Century primary provision for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

In developing primary provision the authority will seek to improve the sports and dining facilities and work collaboratively with other agencies to encourage healthy eating, promote high nutritional standards and provide access to a wider range of extended services.

6.4 A Safer Halton

New primary provision will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Primary Capital Programme seeks to ensure that schools become a major resource for the communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 A risk analysis has been undertaken which has identified a number of key risks. The key risks include the timeline, consultation arrangements,

school organisation and approval of the Strategy.

7.2 The Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the Department by 16th June 2008. Development time is therefore short. In order to meet this challenging deadline set by Central Government and ensure the consultation arrangements can be met a number of development meetings have already been held with schools and other stakeholders to draft the vision and key principles.

7.3 Developing the vision and the principles in conjunction with primary schools and other stakeholders should ensure the majority of schools support the strategy and that the need for the re-organisation of primary provision.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Primary Capital Strategy must be inclusive and consider the needs of all primary schools. The Programme aims to increase diversity access and choice, address under performance, provide more integrated local services for every child and family.

9.0 REASON (S) FOR DECISION

9.1 All authorities are required to produce and submit a Strategy for Change identifying their Strategic approach to Primary Capital Development.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 This is a DCSF requirement.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the DCSF by 16th June 2008.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme – Primary Strategy for Change. Department for Children, Schools and Families (6.12.2007)	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox