

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 5 June 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 outline of the draft Primary Strategy for Change that has been developed as part of the Primary Capital Programme. To seek approval by the Board of the Strategy prior to its submission to the DCSF by 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008.
- 1.2 The capital investment programme requires approval by Council, however as the DCSF deadline requires schools projects which will be undertaken within the first two years to be named by 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 the Board is asked to approve the schools programme for the purposes of the DCSF submission. Full Council will then be asked to ratify the projects at their July meeting.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.1 **The Primary Strategy for Change be approved; and**
- 2.2 **The building projects prioritised for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 be approved for the purpose of the submission to the DCSF and that Full Council be requested to ratify the projects at its next meeting in July 2008.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Background**

- 3.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the requirement to develop a Primary Capital Programme was outlined. It was explained that as part of the Programme all Local Authorities must produce a Primary Strategy for Change which must be formally endorsed by the Council, the Diocesan Authorities and a majority of primary schools.
- 3.3 The aim of the Primary Capital Programme is to ensure primary schools play a lead role in the heart of their communities, through offering local services, providing a 21<sup>st</sup> learning environment particularly in ICT, development world class standards and promoting personalisation, flexibility, diversity and choice. As part of the Programme consideration needs to be given to local demography, pupil numbers and school standards.

- 3.4 The Primary Strategy for Change for Halton has been developed following consultation with primary schools, Diocesan colleagues and a range of other partners. Three dedicated sessions on have been held with Primary Headteachers and an Extended Services Working Group has met to consider opportunities for local and extended services to be offered through primary schools. Chairs of Governors and Halton Association of Governors have been consulted along with colleagues from other Departments across the Council such as Environment and Health and Community.
- 3.5 A draft of the Primary Strategy for Change has been circulated (Appendix A) to the headteachers of all nursery, infant, junior and primary schools including the primary special school. It has also been sent out to all secondary headteachers and secondary special headteachers. Chairs of Primary Governors have been sent copies and the draft has also been placed on the pages of the Governors Website. Copies have also been sent to the Diocese of Shrewsbury, Diocese of Chester, Liverpool Diocese and Liverpool Archdiocese for final comments. The document has been placed on both the intranet and internet and sent to Departments across the Council for their information and comment. In addition, each member of the Alliance Board has been sent a draft copy. The final date for responses to the consultation is Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Any amendments arising from the consultation will be tabled at the meeting.

#### 4.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Authority must develop a strategic approach to capital investment for primary schools over 14 years. For 2009/2010 and 2010/11 the indicative primary capital funding is £8.4 million. Funding from 2011/12 will be subject to public spending review.
- 4.2 The submission to the DCSF on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 must name and provide costings for the schools or projects that will be undertaken within the first two years of the funding i.e. 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. In Halton a re-organisation of primary provision has yet to be undertaken. For the first two years of funding, therefore, projects have been proposed which will not prejudice this process.
- 4.3 The proposed projects for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 are:
- The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School. This proposals is supported by the DCSF as it promotes diversity and a change of governance, it represents value for money as it joins funding with BSF and allows the completion of the All-Through School. Many of the pupils from the school come from deprived backgrounds and the school is located in the top 40% most deprived wards within the borough. There are significant condition and suitability issues on all three sites with some pupils still taught in mobile classrooms. Wrap around early years will be provided and extended services offered through the new All-Through School. Primary places will be rationalised once the two form of entry primary element has been

approved.

- Our Lady Mother of the Saviour. This is a voluntary aided Catholic school in Runcorn. It is located in the ward ranked third highest in terms of deprivation within the borough. The school is a one form of entry primary with healthy pupil numbers. There are significant suitability issues and the school requires a complete remodelling. Some investment has been undertaken by the Diocese of Shrewsbury however to complete and compliment the initial investment primary capital funding is required.
- All Saints Upton. This is a voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School. 71.6% of pupils who currently attend this school come from the top two IMD areas. There are significant suitability issues at the school as it currently operates on split sites. Extended Services are offered through the school and within the last twelve months a Children's Centre has been developed and completed on the school site.
- Following an in depth audit of IT provision investment opportunities which will supported full integrated learning systems will be explored across the borough.
- Opportunities will be explored to link funding and utilise surplus capacity in and around schools to support the promotion of the Every Child Matters Agenda and increasing the range of extended services offered through primary schools.

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 To trigger funding for Phase 2 developments 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 for delivery, school organisation and approval of the Strategy.

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme – Primary Strategy for Change. Department for Children, Schools and Families (6.12.2007)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox
Draft Primary Capital Strategy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Grosvenor House Intranet/internet	Lorraine Cox
Presentations and Notes Primary Headteachers Meeting, Diocesan Meetings and Extended Services Meetings	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox
Executive Board Report – Primary Capital Programme – 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Grosvenor House Internet	Lorraine Cox