

Report of the Director of Learning Culture and Children's Services

## **SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE – 2010/11**

### **Summary**

- 1 This purpose of this report is to:
  - inform the Executive Member of recent progress on major schemes within the Children and Young People's Capital Programme.
  - inform the Executive Member of schemes proposed for 2010/11 and of revisions to the programme.

### **Background**

- 2 The current approved Children's Services Capital programme shows gross capital expenditure of £26.7m in 2010/11. This is detailed in Annex A.

### **Consultation**

- 3 All of the schemes considered in this report have been, or will be, subject to extensive consultation with governing bodies, key partner agencies, local councillors and residents in the locality of the individual schemes during development.

### **Analysis**

- 4 Progress reports on each of the schemes are contained in the following paragraphs:

#### **Targeted Capital Fund (14-19, SEN and Disabilities Provision)**

- 5 In October 2007 the DCSF announced a total of £608m of funding to be allocated to local authorities that were not part of the Buildings Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This funding was provided to local authorities to support the provision of facilities for 14-19 diplomas, and also to support the improvement of facilities for pupils with Special Educational Needs and disabilities. City of York Council was allocated a total of £8m split over the years 2009/10 (£2m) and 2010/11 (£6m). In addition, the authority successfully bid for £515K capital funding towards provision of two diplomas approved under the DCSF Gateway mechanism for delivery from September 2008.
- 6 The allocation of funds supporting diploma provision has been made following consultation with the 14-19 Strategic Partnership that includes headteachers and college principals. Annex B details the funding that supports the various diplomas in secondary schools and colleges that now totals £3.8m. This includes a sum of £500K to support the introduction of the new diploma in construction. Expressions

of interest have been invited from schools and colleges and will be considered by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership.

7 Further allocations from the Targeted Capital Fund were made for the provision of Learning Support Units at York High School (£500k), and Manor School (£329k). These schemes, completed as part of the recent building programmes, are now complete. Contributions from the fund will also be made to support the funding of special needs provision within the new primary schools that are due to be built in 2010/11, subject to planning approval.

8 Further schemes are now being developed in consultation with individual schools. £750K has been earmarked at this stage for the development of a Learning Support Unit and other facilities at Canon Lee School. This project will support the adaptation of Clifton without Junior School, to enable Canon Lee School to use the accommodation, once the junior school moves to the new Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School site in October 2011. The scheme is expected to include facilities for Youth Service provision and other community services. Further reports will provide more detail when feasibility studies have been completed.

9 A scheme is also being developed to improve the accommodation and facilities for students at Applefields Special School. Demand for places at the school remains stronger than predicted and the school continues to be oversubscribed. The current accommodation does not fully meet the changing needs of the students and staff and the scheme will seek to provide more flexible accommodation. The school is also working with the LA to develop some satellite provision at another secondary school in order to provide greater opportunity and choice for students and families. Expressions of interest in a pilot scheme have been sought from schools across the city. Further reports to the Executive Member will provide more detail when feasibility studies are completed and budgets confirmed.

10 The LA is also working with the Governing Body of Clifton Green School on a scheme to increase space for teaching and learning at the school, which has seen increased pupil numbers in recent years. The infill of an unused area of courtyard in the school will provide additional accommodation from September 2011. The development of this space will allow the school to maintain its class sizes and successful nurture groups.

### **Modernisation Funding**

11 The LA organises a programme of modernisation works to address high priority building issues in schools based on condition surveys. During 2010/11 the LA will undertake some essential works to improve or replace some of the roofing at Copmanthorpe Primary School and Carr Infant School. A small number of other schemes will also be developed following analysis of condition surveys and fire risk assessments that have been undertaken. The LA will also work with Huntington School and Fulford School to develop options for the renewal of both schools' heating systems. Both schools have lost school days this winter due to boiler and heating failures. The systems are increasingly uneconomic to run, unreliable, and expensive to maintain. Feasibility studies have been commissioned and these will consider the options available and inform investment decisions. Further discussions regarding the contribution to be met from schools delegated capital funding, and phasing of these schemes, will be held with the governing bodies of both schools and progress will be reported to the Executive Member.

## **Building Schools for the Future – Joseph Rowntree**

- 12 The new Joseph Rowntree school has opened this month. The new school has won a prestigious design award and students and staff have celebrated the move into their fabulous new building. The building has been delivered on schedule, and within budget, through the joint efforts of the project team that includes staff and governors of the school, local authority officers, and the construction partner Carillion PLC. The school has strong links with the local community and various open events are planned this month. The old school, at the front of the new building, will be demolished over the next few months to be replaced by landscaping and a new entrance to the new school, ready for the autumn term.

## **Children's Centre Programme**

- 13 The development of the ninth Children's Centre at Knavesmire Primary School is now well advanced and work is due to be completed in April.

## **Primary Capital Programme**

- 14 The Primary Capital Programme is a programme of strategic investment for the primary sector with the target of rebuilding or improving at least half of all primary schools in the country by 2022. A total of £1.9bn was made available nationally over the three year period 2008/11.
- 15 City of York Council was provisionally allocated a total of £8.378m, split over the years 2009/10 (£3m) and 2010/11 (£5.378m). In order to access this funding, the authority was required to submit a local Primary Strategy for Change document containing proposals to the DCSF. This was approved by the DCSF, subject to minor modifications, late in 2008.
- 16 A report to the Executive Member on 10 June 2008 outlined the proposed initial priorities for investment: a new school building to replace those used by the federation of Rawcliffe Infant and Clifton Junior Schools, and a scheme that supports the Diocese with the merger of Our Lady's VA RC and English Martyr's VA RC Primary Schools. The funding includes DCSF grant, devolved capital contributions from the schools and prudential borrowing to be agreed with the Schools Forum. The total budget also includes £1M Modernisation Funding expected to be available in 2011/12 that is subject to further announcement from DCSF.

### Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary

- 17 The planning application for the new school has been submitted at the beginning of February, and it is anticipated that the application will be considered at the end of April. Construction work is expected to start on site in June 2010, subject to planning permission and contract signing. The new school is expected to be completed in late 2011, with the infants moving in first followed by the juniors.

### Our Lady's and English Martyrs Primary School

- 18 This voluntary aided scheme is being developed with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough that is contributing £1M to the scheme. A planning application is due to be submitted by the Diocese in mid March, with a decision by mid June. It is expected that work will commence on site at the end of July, subject to planning permission and sign off of the construction contract.

## **Corporate Priorities**

- 19 The schemes covered in this report contribute to key elements of the Council's corporate strategy, in particular through the ambition of a Learning City that seeks to provide access to high quality education and training facilities and provision.

## **Financial Implications**

- 20 The amendments to the capital programme required from the scheme updates above are detailed in Annex A.

## **21 Other Implications**

- **Human Resources:** not applicable
- **Equalities:** not applicable
- **Legal:** not applicable
- **Crime and Disorder:** not applicable
- **Information Technology:** not applicable
- **Property:** not applicable

## **Risk management**

- 22 There is always a degree of risk associated with operating a capital programme as schemes are developed and implemented. The key to minimising this risk is the effective operation of monitoring and control processes. This report is part of that process, where updated figures and corrective actions are proposed.

## **Recommendations**

- 23 The Executive Member is recommended to:
- Agree the schemes to be developed from within the available resources of the approved capital programme
  - Agree the revised schemes and funding of the capital programme as detailed in Annex A, and to recommend to the Executive for approval as part of the next corporate capital programme monitoring report
- to enable the effective management and monitoring of the capital programme.

## Contact Details

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Report  
Approved



Date 01/03/2010

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**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Annex

Annex A - Capital Programme 2010/11

Annex B – Allocation of Targeted Capital Fund 2008/11