

# Meeting of the City Council

## 20 September 2017

<b>Report title</b>	School Expansion Programmes	
<b>Referring body</b>	Cabinet, 13 September 2017	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Claire Darke	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Claire Darke, Education	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Mark Taylor, Strategic Director of People	
<b>Originating service</b>	School Places and Transport	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Bill Hague	Head of School Planning and Resources
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Cabinet	13 September 2017

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed funding strategy, amounting to £34.3 million, to support the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19.
2. Approve the establishment of new capital budgets, amounting to £34.3 million, to support the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19.

### Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. That the Council is not in full control of all the factors relating to the effective and timely supply of school places.
2. That a further report will be presented to Cabinet to set individual scheme budgets.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks Council approval of the proposed funding strategy to support the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places.
- 2.2 On 13 September 2017, Cabinet are due to consider an exempt report entitled School Expansion Programmes 2017-19.
- 2.3 The report being presented to Cabinet recommends that Council:
  1. Approve the proposed funding strategy, amounting to £34.3 million, to support the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-2020 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-2019.
  2. Approve the establishment of new capital budgets, amounting to £34.3 million, to support the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-2020 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-2019.
- 2.4 Please note that in the current fragmented environment, adopting a flexible approach to school place planning is essential. Given the potential for external factors and decisions to impact significantly on the Council's ability to fulfil its sufficiency duty, Council representatives are working closely with academies and partners to mitigate risks and monitor progression but are not in full control of all factors.

## **3.0 Proposed Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20**

- 3.1 On 27 June 2017, Cabinet approved the undertaking of required statutory processes in relation to the proposed Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20 and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education in consultation with the Strategic Director of People, to consider the responses to initial consultation and determine whether or not to proceed to Stage 1 of the statutory process in relation to schemes proposed for inclusion in the Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20.
- 3.2 Initial consultation with regard to the proposed expansions of Loxdale Primary School, Spring Vale Primary School and Stowlawn Primary School commenced on 3 July 2017 and concluded on 30 July 2017. The outcomes of initial consultation on each of the primary expansion proposals were recently reviewed by the Cabinet Member for Education, in consultation with the Strategic Director of People and progression to the statutory consultation process was approved.

3.3 Formal consultation on the proposed primary expansion schemes will commence on 18 September 2017 and run until 15 October 2017.

3.4 The Cabinet will consider the outcome of consultation on the proposed primary expansion schemes and make a final decision on the proposals on 29 November 2017.

#### **4.0 Loxdale Primary School**

4.1 Loxdale Primary School is a community primary school located within the Bilston East ward.

4.2 To cater effectively for projected demand, it is proposed that Loxdale Primary School is permanently expanded to two form entry and relocated onto the Bilston Urban Village site. It is proposed that with effect from September 2018, the school's Reception admission limit is increased to 60. Given practical constraints it is envisaged that for the 2018-19 academic year that the school would continue be housed on the existing site with a transfer to the new site anticipated in 2019-20.

#### **5.0 Spring Vale Primary School**

5.1 Spring Vale Primary School is a community primary school located within the Spring Vale ward.

5.2 To cater effectively for projected demand, it is proposed that Spring Vale Primary School is permanently expanded to two form entry on its existing site. Spring Vale Primary School is currently one form entry (30 places per year) and it is proposed that with effect from September 2018, the school's admission limit would increase to two form entry (60 places).

#### **6.0 Stowlawn Primary**

6.1 Stowlawn Primary is a community primary school located within the Bilston North ward.

6.2 To cater effectively for projected demand, it is proposed that Stowlawn Primary School is permanently expanded to two form entry on its existing site. Stowlawn Primary School's Reception admission limit is currently one form entry (30 places per year) and it is proposed that with effect from September 2018, the school's Reception admission limit would increase to two form entry (60 places).

#### **7.0 Proposed Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19**

7.1 On 27 June 2017, Cabinet approved the formal proposal of schemes included within the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19.

7.2 Council representatives formally proposed the expansions of five academies in the City to academy trusts in July 2017.

7.3 It is anticipated that academy trusts will undertake appropriate consultations on the proposed expansions during the autumn term 2017 and then submit the required applications to the Regional Schools Commissioner who will determine whether the academies can expand.

## 8.0 Financial implications

8.1 The estimated costs of delivering the planned Primary School Expansion Programme 2018-20 and the planned Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-19 total £34.3 million.

8.2 It is proposed that the estimated cost implications of the two expansion programmes are met through a combination of Basic Need funding, Section 106 contribution and prudential borrowing as summarised below:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Proposed Contribution £ Million</b>
2018-19 Basic Need Allocation	3.3
Section 106 Contribution	1.0
Prudential borrowing	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.3</b>

8.3 The estimated capital requirement of £30 million would be borrowed over the asset life of 25 years; the approximate annual revenue cost of this borrowing is £1.835 million. It should be noted that this is not currently included in Council budgets and therefore represents a further significant budget pressure.

8.4 There is potential for a proportion of the identified prudential borrowing to be replaced by a proportion of the 2017-18 Basic Need Allocation; however, this cannot be confirmed until the delivery of ongoing capital projects has been completed and a final financial outturn position confirmed. This could reduce the level of prudential borrowing required by up to £3 million.

[HM/11092017/Q]

## 9.0 Legal implications

9.1 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

[RB/11092017/T]

## **10.0 Equalities implications**

- 10.1 This report has equal opportunity implications as the contents have direct reference to educational provision for children and young people in the City. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 10.2 As part of the approved consultations the views of a range of stakeholders including; pupils, parents/carers, school employees, headteachers, school governors, trade union representatives, Councillors and diocesan authorities would be sought with regard to the primary school expansion schemes. Consultation will form part of the Equality Analysis for these schemes.

## **11.0 Environmental implications**

- 11.1 Any building work arising from these proposals would be geared to promote improvement to the physical environment.

## **12.0 Human resources implications**

- 12.1 Subject to ultimate approval and implementation of the expansion proposals, there is likely to be a need for schools to employ additional employees to support the increased number of pupils. However, the future organisation of employees within schools is the responsibility of individual schools' headteachers and governing bodies/trusts.

## **13.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 13.1 Corporate Landlord has already been involved with the school place planning process, commissioning the original feasibility studies within the primary estate via Projects and Works. These designs and cost estimates will now need to be revisited for those primary schools selected for expansion for detailed schemes to be developed, meeting the needs of the school and deadlines for the provision of pupil places in September 2018. Once detailed designs and programmes are agreed working with the schools, Planners, Highways et al., Projects and Works will be commissioned to tender the schemes in consultation with Procurement to secure best value. Corporate Landlord would be responsible for the delivery of all primary expansion schemes.
- 13.2 It is envisaged that of the five proposed secondary school schemes, only one would need to be delivered in house. Projects and Works have confirmed that they have capacity to deliver within indicative timeframes.

- 13.3 Corporate Landlord would need to be involved in all projects to provide assurance that all the proposed schemes are delivering the required capacity in a timely fashion and offering value for money.
- 13.4 Corporate Landlord will work with legal services in the case of academy and church schools to ensure the details of any land transfers or lease agreements are updated and the correct notices given. These may include schools built under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), where variations may be required along with development agreements to work on those sites if the Council procures the works.

#### **14.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 14.1 Cabinet (13 September 2017) School Expansion Programmes  
Cabinet (27 June 2017) School Place Planning  
Cabinet (20 July 2016) School Place Planning