

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

18 March 2014

Subject: Schools Capital Programme 2014 -2017

Cabinet member: Laura Mayes, Children's Services

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary

The decisions are required to enable the Council to progress to the next stage of the process for expanding school provision to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places.

Demand for school places is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy and as troops returning from Germany rebase their families in settlements on Salisbury Plain.

Looking at the latest birth rate figures and longer term population projections, there is likely to be a need for between 7 to 10 additional forms of entry to meet demand up to 2017. This includes some preliminary planning for Service Family Accommodation (SFA) being provided by the MOD for troops returning from Germany to Salisbury Plain. The location of SFA is currently at the early stages of consultation, but it is expected that between 1000 and 1500 additional school aged children will require a school place by 2017/18.

Proposals

- i. Authorise the Corporate Director for Children Services to invite and evaluate tenders for the projects described in this report, and, following consultation with the cabinet member, to award the contract for the project (subject to approval of any necessary statutory proposals)
- ii. Authorise the Corporate Director for Children Services to consult further with primary schools across core strategy growth areas in Wiltshire and relevant interested parties on options for expansion, and where appropriate publish Statutory Proposals for expansion (in line with the schools capital programme described in this report); and
- iii. Authorise the Corporate Director for Children Services to seek all necessary planning and statutory consents and approvals for the works and land transfers described this report.
- iv. Authorise the Corporate Director for Children Services to develop plans to balance the budget by seeking further funding streams to support the provision of sufficient secondary places arising from both civilian and service family accommodation in Tidworth and Amesbury community board areas estimated at between £15m – £20m.

Reason for Proposal

The decisions are required to enable the Council to progress to the next stage of the process for expanding school provision to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. The Council has a statutory responsibility to promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfillment of every child's educational potential. The Council must also promote diversity and increase choice.

Demand for school places is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, and as troops returning from Germany rebase their families in settlements on Salisbury Plain.

The Legal Framework within which any cabinet member must consider the proposals is set out in **legal implications section**.

Cabinet delegated approval is required to invite and evaluate tenders, and submit any required planning applications. Cabinet delegated approval is required to award contracts (or a programme of contracts) with an annual value of £1,000,000 or total value greater than £4,000,000. Given timescales governing the delivery of the schemes, delegated authority with consultation as appropriate is requested to allow timely progression of the projects.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

18 March 2014

Subject: Schools Capital Programme 2014 -2017

Cabinet member: Laura Mayes, Children's Services

Key Decision: Yes

Purpose of Report

The decisions are required to enable the Council to progress to the next stage of the process for expanding school provision to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. Demand for school places is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the draft Core Strategy and as troops returning from Germany rebase their families in settlements on Salisbury Plain. Looking at the latest birth rate figures and longer term population projections, there is likely to be a need for between 7 to 10 additional forms of entry to meet demand up to 2017. This includes some preliminary planning for Service Family Accommodation (SFA) being provided by the MOD for troops returning from Germany to Salisbury Plain. The location of SFA is currently at the early stages of consultation, but it is expected that between 1000 and 1500 additional school aged children will require a school place by 2017/18.

Background

1. In terms of need to expand primary school places much work has already been undertaken since 2010 to provide over 1200 places. A class room is equivalent to 30 school places so 1200 places equates to 40 classrooms or about 6 single form entry primary schools. However, growth will not necessarily be sufficiently focussed in specific areas so flexibility in the expansion of capacity is likely to be required.

Table 1 shows the permanent places that are already completed since 2010.

School Places Delivered 2010 - 2013					
Year	Community Area	School	Places	Type	Status
2010/11	Devizes	All Cannings C E Primary	30	Extension	Complete
		Total	30		
2011/12	Tisbury	Wardour RCVA Primary	30	Extension	Complete
		Total	30		
2012/13	Devizes	Trinity School, Devizes (formerly St. Peter's)	210	New School	Complete
	Malmesbury	Malmesbury St. Joseph's	21	Extension	Complete
	Pewsey	Woodborough CEVA Primary	42	Extension	Complete
	Salisbury	Old Sarum Primary	210	New School	Complete
	Tidworth	Clarendon Infants School	45	Extension	Complete
	Trowbridge	West Ashton CEVA	7	Extension	Complete
		Total	535		

2013/14	Amesbury	Amesbury Archer	210	Extension	Complete
	Bradford-on-Avon	Fitzmaurice Primary School	77	Extension	On Site
	Corsham	Neston Primary School	60	Extension	Complete
	Corsham	Corsham Regis Primary Academy	56	Extension	Complete
	Durrington	Larkhill Primary School	105	Extension	Complete
	Pewsey	Pewsey Primary	30	Extension	Complete
	Tidworth	Clarendon Infants School	60	Extension	Complete
	Trowbridge	Southwick Primary School	30	Extension	Complete
	Trowbridge	Staverton Primary School	77	Extension	Complete
	Trowbridge	Paxcroft Primary School	49	Extension	Complete
		Total	754		

2. Looking at the latest birth rate figures and longer term population projections, there is likely to be a need for between 7 to 10 additional forms of entry to meet demand up to 2017. This includes some preliminary planning for Service Family Accommodation (SFA) being provided by the MOD for troops returning from Germany to Salisbury Plain. The location of SFA is currently at the early stages of consultation, but it is expected that between 1000 and 1500 school aged children will require a school place. The MOD indicate that this will be mostly Primary aged children requiring the equivalent to about 4 – 5 single form entry primary schools. Wiltshire's recent experience of growing Secondary pupil numbers in Tidworth suggests that the potential for significant growth in Secondary aged pupils should be monitored closely. Given the long lead in times to deliver projects in secondary schools, feasibility studies are being commissioned to identify how additional places could be delivered by 2017/18.

SECTION 1: Basic Need Projects

Table 2 shows school place projects either on site or about to commence

School Places Pending				
2014/15	School	Places	Type	Status
Amesbury	Amesbury Primary	60	Extension	In Planning / Out to Tender
Salisbury	Pembroke Park Primary	210	Extension	In Planning / Out to Tender
Tidworth	Tidworth NEQ New School	420	New School	On Site
Trowbridge	East Trowbridge New School	210	New School	On Site
	Total	900		

Table 3 shows proposed school place projects

School Places Proposals				
2015 -17	School	Places	Type	Status
Amesbury	Amesbury Christ The King	49	Extension	Design Development
Downton	Downton Primary School	60	Extension	Design Development ***
Durrington	Kiwi School, Bulford	154	Extension	Design Development **
Melksham	Forest & Sandridge Primary	105	Enlarged Replacement School	Design Development ***
Purton	Ridgeway Farm School	210	New School	Design Development
Salisbury	Greentrees Primary School	182	Extension on new site	Design Development *
Tidworth	Castle Primary, Ludgershall	260	Extension	Design Development **
	Total	1020		

- * LA Statutory Consultation underway
- ** LA Statutory Consultation required
- *** Diocese Statutory Consultation required

SECTION 2: Maintenance Projects

Table 4 shows planned large maintenance projects

Amesbury	Figheledean St. Michael's Primary
Chippenham	St. Nicholas' Special School
Purton	St Sampson's (if approved)
Tidworth	Zouch Primary
Warminster	The Minster
Westbury	Bitham Brook

Safeguarding Considerations

3. These proposals will provide school places in a safe environment for children in the immediate locality. Without the expansion young people would need to be transported to schools a long way from their community leaving them more vulnerable due to the distance they are away from home.

Public Health Implications

4. These proposal will offer a range of sporting facilities to the pupils including a hall, netball courts and football pitches. The investment in the school sites provides the opportunity for young people in the community to participate in sports and thereby promote healthy behaviours and practices to ensure the population stay healthy and ensure health resilience.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

5. Additional floor area will incur increased use of energy to operate the buildings. Increased capacity will see additional numbers of students travelling to and from the schools. The scope of works being proposed for the proposed developments will comprise new buildings. These will be designed to ensure compliance with Wiltshire's renewable energy and environmental requirements as well as building control and other statutory requirements.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

6. These proposals are aimed at meeting the basic need requirements for young people living in Wiltshire

The duties in relation to schools are:

Not to discriminate against a person:

- a) In the arrangements it makes for deciding who is offered admission as a pupil
- b) As to the terms on which it offers to admit the person as a pupil
- c) By not admitting the person as a pupil

Not to discriminate against a pupil:

- a) In the way it provides education for the pupil
- b) In the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- c) By not providing education for the pupil
- d) By not affording the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- e) By excluding the pupil from the school
- f) By subjecting the pupil to any other detriment

Not to harass:

- a) A pupil
- b) A person who has applied for admission as a pupil.

Not to victimise a person:

- a) In the arrangements it makes for deciding who is offered admission as a pupil
- b) As to the terms on which it offers to admit the person as a pupil
- c) By not admitting the person as a pupil.

Not to victimise a pupil:

- a) In the way it provides education for the pupil;
- b) In the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service;
- c) By not providing education for the pupil;
- d) By not affording the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service;
- e) By excluding the pupil from the school;
- f) By subjecting the pupil to any other detriment.

Risk Assessment

7. The main risk to Wiltshire Council is there will be a considerable shortfall in places for young people both in normal admission rounds at Reception and year 7 as well as those that move to the area in-year.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

8. Identified risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken:
 1. The schools are approaching capacity and young people will have to be accommodated in 'out of area' provision' at substantially increased transport cost to the Council and disruption for the child and family

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

9. Identified risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken:

Risk	Action to mitigate the risk
1. Financial envelope does not enable delivery of proposals	Project steering group to drive specifications and work with strategic asset management and design teams to ensure proposals are deliverable
2. Delays in project delivery	Management of project to an agreed timeline
3. Academy orders / transfers	The LA will work with the Academy Sponsor to ensure that the commissioned school places are can proceed. This requirement will be secured in the Academy order

Financial Implications

10. It should be noted that the total Basic Need grant for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 has been confirmed by central government as £3.9m 2014/15, £5.4m 2015/16 and £5.7m 2016/17 giving an overall total of approximately £15.1m. Officers have endeavoured to maximise Wiltshire's allocation from this funding source.
11. In addition the programme is supported by developer contribution secured under Section 106 agreements. These figures represent the agreed allocation, but do not include specific funding for troops returning from Germany, in respect of which further negotiations for funds are expected when the distribution and timing of requirements is clearer. At this stage, it is not known if such funds will be received from the DfE as an addition to Basic Need grant or from the MoD.

School Places Pending	Current Cost estimate				
	< £500k	£500k - £1m	£1m - £2m	£2m-£3m	£3m+
Amesbury Primary		X			
Pembroke Park Primary			X		
Tidworth NEQ New School					X
East Trowbridge New School					X
Amesbury Christ The King		X			
Purton Ridgeway Farm New School					X
Downton Primary School	X				
Kiwi School, Bulford				X	
Forest & Sandridge Primary					X
Greentrees Primary School					X
Castle Primary, Ludgershall				X	
Wellington Academy				X	
	Total Cost: £29.3m	Basic Need Allocation 2014 -2017: £15.1m	Carry Forward and Section 106: £14.2m	Balance 2014- 17: £0	

12. The budget estimate for the projects shown in the School Places Pending and School Places Proposals appendix to this document currently stands at circa £29.3m (Appendix recommended to be considered under Part II). The combination of Basic Need allocation and Section 106 contributions received or expected from developers fully fund this programme. There are risks involved as some of the S106 agreements are not yet in place and the anticipated costs of the school improvements are only current estimates at today's prices, so build cost increases could put further pressures on the budget. With such a tight capital programme there are no other sums that can be allocated to these schools, therefore other schemes within the schools programme would have to be scaled back or stopped if the anticipated S106 funding is not achieved or there are build cost pressures.
13. This programme does not include any provision for secondary places in Durrington / Bulford / Larkhill and only provides sufficient secondary school places for children already attending primary schools in the Tidworth community area. There is also likely to be impact from troops returning from Germany on the Stonehenge School in Amesbury. The provision of adequate secondary places arising from both civilian and service family accommodation is likely to require further investment of between £15m – £20m for which no funding is currently available. Funding streams to support this programme need to be secured if the LA is to fulfil its statutory duty to provide school places. The approach the authority intends to take to secure this funding is through proactively working closely with central government and all relevant agencies.

14. The maintenance budget to undertake planned works on existing schools has been announced as £4.9m. This funding has divided between condition related maintenance and a programme to address building shortfalls that effect deliver of education such as temporary classrooms at the end of their design life. The budget in 2014-15 also includes a carry forward for implementing a replacement school at Figheldean of £1.9m and a further £400k from current schemes or about to commence, so some of this funding has been earmarked into larger schemes to reduce the gap in funding.

School	< £500k	£500k - £1m	£1m - £2m	£2m-£3m	£3m+
Figheldean St. Michael's Primary			X		
Amesbury Primary	X				
St. Nicholas' Special School		X			
Zouch Primary	X				
St. Sampson's, Cricklade	X				
The Minster		X			
Bitham Brook	X				
	Total Cost: £4.8m	Maintenance Allocation: £4.8m	Balance 2014 - 15: £0.0m		

Legal Implications

15. The contracts for the building works described in this report will be let in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2006 (as amended) as appropriate.
16. By virtue of section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 the Council may not dispose of or change the use of playing fields without the prior consent of the Secretary of State.
17. Under the Education (School Premises) Regulations 2012 suitable outdoor space must be provided in order to enable:
- Physical Education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and
 - Pupils to play outside
18. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and to promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice.
19. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires LAs to consider and respond to parental representations when carrying out their planning duty to make sure that there is sufficient primary and secondary provision and suitable SEN provision in their area.

Options Considered

20. Before selecting these proposals extensive reviews with school clusters groups, consultation with stakeholders and technical feasibility studies have been carried out. The option not to proceed would result in the council failing to meet its statutory duty to provide young people with a school place

Conclusion

21. The recommendations in this report enable the Council to expand school provision to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient Primary school places. Demand for school places at both Primary and Secondary schools is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy and as troops returning from Germany rebase their families in settlements on Salisbury Plain.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Background Papers relied upon to a material extent in preparing this report:

None

Appendix – budget estimates for schools programme (Part II)