



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards (Corporate Issue)

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee

7th November 2002

18th December 2002

Schools Asset Management Plan

Report of the Director of Education

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 All Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are required to prepare a Schools Asset Management Plan (AMP) and submit it to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) for approval. The AMP is intended to show how the City Council and schools will fulfil stewardship responsibilities for the school estate and how capital investment supports the priorities of Government and the City Council. Stated Government priorities in relation to capital investment are the raising of standards in education, promoting inclusion, improving pupil behaviour, providing better working environments for the school workforce and tackling cross-cutting issues. The key documents are presented for Members' approval.

2. Summary

2.1 DfES issued guidance to all Local Education Authorities at the end of April 2002, prescribing the framework for information to be submitted to show that Local Authorities have an effective AMP and effective arrangements for implementation. The prescribed framework includes the Local Policy Statement and the Statement of Priorities. These documents are included in the supporting information at Appendices B and C respectively.

2.2 The Local Policy Statement describes the basis for collecting and maintaining data relating to the condition, suitability and sufficiency of the school estate, how the data is used to identify individual school needs and how these needs are prioritised across the City.

2.2 The Statement of Priorities is designed to give schools, Dioceses and other local partners and DfES a clear view of local priorities and show that the asset management planning process is effective.

- 2.3** The outcome of Government's appraisal of these documents is likely to influence the level of the discretionary element of the Single Capital Pot, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating and the degree of autonomy allowed when making detailed investment decisions within the AMP guidelines.
- 2.4** All schools were consulted on the proposed priorities for capital investment in early summer, 2002 and there is broad support for the proposals.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the Local Policy Statement and the Statement of Priorities
- b) Approve the Indicative Capital Programme as set out in Appendix A (which will be funded from Government grants and credit approvals and other capital funds already approved by Cabinet)
- c) Delegate the implementation of the Capital Programme to the Director in Consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning.
- d) Note that the detailed phasing of the works has still to be established and the spend profile will be agreed as part of c) above.

4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The assessment by the DfES of Leicester's schools AMP will form one of the components of the discretionary allocation of the Single Capital Pot. Together with the assessments of Housing Strategies and Business Plans, Local Transport Plans and the social services aspects of capital strategies, the assessment of the schools AMP forms part of the service performance part of the discretionary element of the Single Capital Pot. (The discretionary element also includes a lump sum based on the assessments of corporate capital strategies and AMPs, up to a maximum of £100,000).

For 2002/03, the discretionary element was 5% of the total resources allocated although in the longer term this is envisaged to increase to 20%. Even at this initial 5% figure, the discretionary allocation is significant. In 2002/03 in addition to the maximum £100,000 for its capital strategy and corporate AMP, Leicester received £715,000 for its service performance part of the discretionary element.

A positive assessment of the schools Asset Management Plan will also increase the amount of autonomy that the Council is given relating to capital investment decisions on individual projects financed from funding regimes such as condition focused capital. A positive assessment would allow the Council to approve individual schemes without having to seek approval from

the DfES.

4.2 Legal implications:

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report (Guy Goodman, Assistant Head of Legal Services, ext 7054)

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

John Garratt
Head of Planning, Property and Procurement
Education and Lifelong Learning

Tel: 0116 2527766
Internal: Extn. 7766
e-mail: garrj001@leicester.gov.uk

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Capital Expenditure over £1 million
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

WARDS AFFECTED:

Schools Asset Management Plan

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1** The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) consulted in 1999 on proposals for a new Schools Capital Strategy. The main thrust of the strategy was to move away from mainly annual bidding rounds to a more stable and predictable funding regime based on formulaic allocations, based on the appraisal of asset management plans (AMPs). These should be based on a thorough assessment of all maintained schools to provide a rigorous framework in which to identify capital investment needs and then prioritise these needs in an open, transparent and consultative manner.
- 1.2** The purpose of the AMP is to show how LEAs, their local partners (particularly dioceses and schools) fulfil their stewardship responsibilities to maintain the school estate. The priorities for investment are guided by Central Government priorities, wider local community priorities, the LEA's education priorities and the local priorities of individual schools.
- 1.3** The Council is required to submit two strategic documents to the DfES in accordance with the guidance issued by the Government in April 2002. These documents are:
- The Statement of Priorities
- This is the key strategic document and is designed to give schools, dioceses and other local partners a clear view of local priorities and show that the asset management planning process is effective.
- The Local Policy Statement
- This describes the basis for collecting and maintaining data relating to the condition, suitability and sufficiency of the school estate, how the data is used to identify individual school needs and how these needs are prioritised across the City.
- 1.4** The highest Central Government priorities include security in schools, supporting schools causing concern, increasing diversity of provision

(Specialist Schools, City Academies, etc.), wider behaviour initiatives (pupil referral units, etc.), inclusion (in particular quality provision for pupils with SEN), the extended schools agenda (including community use of facilities and integrating education and other local services), and addressing teacher workload issues.

- 1.5** The wider local community priorities expressed in the Community Plan and the role of schools in neighbourhood revitalisation have been considered. These are described in Section 3.3 of the Statement of Priorities and include educational achievement, health and safety, access, diversity, health and social care and sustainability.
- 1.6** The priorities arising from the Educational Development Plan and other strategic plans are described in Section 4 of the Statement of Priorities.
- 1.7** The proposed strategic priorities for capital investment in the **Statement of Priorities** are:
1. The elimination of immediate health and safety issues including compliance with statutory requirements.
 2. Satisfying its statutory duty with regard to compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.
 3. Ensuring that there are a sufficient number of school places in order to meet the LEA's statutory duties.
 4. Supporting schools causing concern and schools in challenging circumstances.

Subject to available funding, the LEA's other priorities are:

5. Completing the ongoing programme arising from the Review of Secondary Schools.
6. Maintaining the fabric of the building stock.
7. Measures to promote inclusion including SEN provision, linguistic support, etc.
8. Wider behaviour initiatives such as Pupil Referral Units.
9. Removing surplus places in the primary phase.
10. Supporting the Transforming Secondary Education (TSE) agenda through diverse provision, specialist schools, Voluntary-aided (V.A.) schools, City Academies, etc.
11. Replacing poor and unsuitable accommodation such as mobile classrooms to raise the aspirations of teachers and students.
12. Addressing suitability issues where they have the highest impact on the level

of attainment and where they support the Transforming the School Workforce (TSW) agenda and national curriculum priorities.

13. The extended schools agenda including community use of facilities and integration of other Council services.

1.8 The essence of the Local Policy Statement is:

- The Local Education Authority will collect and maintain data pertaining to the condition, suitability and sufficiency of schools and school places.
- Schools have a central role in the asset management planning process. They will prepare School Property Plans which will show the school's local priorities for investment (which should align with Government and LEA priorities) and how they propose to fulfil their own stewardship responsibilities by using their own resources in conjunction with the Council's resources. Needs identified in School Property Plans will be assessed using a ranking system whereby each assessment criterion is weighted and scored. The overall score for each proposal will be based on the weighted average of the score for each criterion. Two ranked lists of priorities will be produced, one for 'essential' investment, e.g., to meet legal, statutory obligations, etc., and one for other investment. Capital investment will be prioritised in accordance with these rankings.
- A consultative group, the AMP Reference Group, representing schools and local dioceses has been established. The group consists of two Primary School headteachers, a Secondary Schools' representative, representatives from the Leicester and Nottingham Dioceses and a union representative. The role of the AMP Reference Group will be to oversee the implementation of the Asset Management Planning Process. The group has no formal decision-making powers but its views will be presented to Members in connection with any future decisions to be taken.

1.9 The outcome of the DfES appraisal of Leicester's Schools AMP will be announced in December 2002. The implications of the appraisal are serious and wide-reaching. In particular, the outcome:

- Will influence the discretionary element of the Single Capital Pot allocation made to the Council.
- Will determine the degree of autonomy that the Council is given with respect to capital investment decisions on individual projects.
- Is likely to influence the future rating of the Council under the Comprehensive Performance Appraisal.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 As detailed in 1.9 above.

3. Legal Implications

3.1 These are dealt with in 4.2 of the report.

4. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References within this report
Raising Standards	Yes	1.5, 1.6, 1.7
Equal Opportunities	Yes	1.5, 1.6, 1.7
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	1.5, 1.6,1.7
Crime and Disorder	Yes	1.5, 1.7
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	1.5, 1.7

5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Asset Management Plans – Appraisal Guidance for 2003-04 published by DfES, April 2002.

6. Consultation

DfES officials were consulted on the Council's proposed investment strategy in May 2002. (See Appendix A in Local Policy Statement)

All schools were consulted on the proposed principles and priorities for capital investment in early summer, 2002. (See Appendix B in Local Policy Statement)

The AMP Reference Group (representing Dioceses and schools) has been consulted and endorses the priorities for capital investment set out in the Statement of Priorities and the principles underpinning the implementation of the schools Amp as set out in the Local Policy Statement.

The following officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

Head of Finance – Resources, Access and Diversity
Corporate Property Officer – Resources Access and Diversity

7. Report Author

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31/10/02

John Garratt
Head of Planning, Property and Procurement
Education and Lifelong Learning

Tel: 0116 2527766
Extension: 7766
e-mail: garrj001@leicester.gov.uk