



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All Wards

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**Cabinet**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

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**Primary Capital Programme**

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**Report of the Interim Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Government's Primary Capital Programme, to summarise and seek approval for the Council's Business Case, which will allow access to the funding and to set out proposals for the first two years of the programme.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Primary Capital Programme is a 14 year programme, the aim of which is to rebuild or refurbish at least half of all primary schools in England, including the replacement of at least the worst 5%.
- 2.2 It is anticipated that the programme will be worth about £150m to the City; half of this funding will be new and half will be existing funding streams that need to be joined up. This programme, alongside the BSF programme for secondary schools, will be a vital strand of the 'One Leicester' strategy.
- 2.3 The report considers the priorities for investment, the scope of the improvements that may be possible with the anticipated funding and the means by which schools should be prioritised within the programme. A list of school projects that could go forward into the capital programme in the first two years is proposed.

**3. Recommendations (or OPTIONS)**

- 3.1 OSMB is recommended to consider the report and advise cabinet of its views and / or further recommendations.
- 3.2 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) Endorse the Primary Strategy for Change, summarized in this report; and

- (b) Authorise the school projects recommended for the first two years to go forward for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

#### **4. Report**

##### **4.1 The national Primary Capital Programme**

4.1.1 The government launched its national primary school building programme in 2007. The aim of the programme is to rebuild or refurbish at least half of all primary schools in England and replace the worst 5%. The programme is expected to last 14 years, commencing April 2009. All local authorities in the country will be able to participate in the programme and receive funding, subject to submitting a satisfactory Strategy for Change (the local business case for the investment). The Council's draft strategy was submitted in June 2008. The Government's response was received on 11.11.08 and states:

4.1.2 'I am pleased to confirm that your authority's strategy has been approved. This means that the strategy was judged to have met all of the required elements and we are consequently able to confirm with immediate effect indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. This will enable your authority to move ahead with planning and procuring its initial projects. The overall comment from the assessors on the Primary Strategy for Change submitted by your authority was as follows:

4.1.3 This strategy provides a sound summary of context and vision and a clear analysis of baseline data although it could have been strengthened by explicit reference to progress in achieving CYPP objectives.

4.1.4 Notable examples of good practice include a commitment to healthy schools, integrated services and the positioning of ICT as central to transformation.

4.1.5 There is a comprehensive approach to long term aims and strong points include openness to innovative models. There is also a sound approach to change although this section could have been strengthened by providing detail on how continuous improvement will be secured.

4.1.6 Other strong elements include a commitment to sustainability, a strategic approach to option appraisal and the wide ranging consultation planned for specific projects'.

4.1.7 Only 28% of all local authorities have received an unconditional approval.

##### **4.2 A 0-19 Strategy for Change**

4.2.1 Ideally, a strategy for investment in schools would cover the full age range from 0-19. whilst the Council was prepared, and indeed wished to submit such a strategy, the government is currently unable to assess such a strategy alongside the submissions of other local authorities. This is partly due to differing criteria for different funding streams and primary and secondary programmes being managed by different parts of DCSF. However, partly as a result of representations made by the City, the government has established a project to investigate the possibility of moving to a single capital strategy for schools.

##### **4.3 Key investment priorities**

4.3.1 The Strategy for Change identifies the following key areas for investment:

- i. Raising standards by making schools fit for teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with modern facilities, including ICT;
- ii. Promoting health and tackling obesity by improving school kitchens and dining areas and facilities for PE and sport;
- iii. Addressing inequality by targeting funds towards those schools most in need;
- iv. Removing and replacing the worst of our dilapidated schools buildings;
- v. Removing surplus school places
- vi. Enabling schools to take their place at the hearty of their communities, providing a wide range of extended and co-located family services; and
- vii. Building schools that are models of sustainable development, reducing carbon emissions and guiding pupils and communities towards more sustainable lifestyles.

#### 4.4 The Scope of the City's Primary Capital Programme

4.4.1 The Strategy for Change considers the scope of the Primary Capital Programme and whether this should be a programme where some money is spent on all schools or whether the money is targeted towards those schools most in need. The table below shows the results of modelling to explore what could be achieved with the funding:

% Schools to be rebuilt	No. schools to be rebuilt	Residual no. of schools in PCP	% of each residual school floor area that can be:		
			Rebuilt	Refurbished	Do nothing
5	4	37	30	30	40
<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>
15	12	29	20	20	60
20	16	25	10	20	70

4.4.2 Based on the knowledge of our schools in the worst condition and the extent to which our schools are in need of modernisation, the initial proposal (highlighted in bold above) is to target a complete replacement of 10% (8no.) of schools. Of the remaining 33 schools expected to be in the programme, it is expected that, on average, it will be possible to replace 25% of the floor area and remodel 25%. This is a guide for planning purposes, not a target for individual schools; schools with greater building need would require higher levels of expenditure.

#### 4.5 Prioritisation

4.5.1 Consideration has been given as to how school level data can be used to help us determine our investment priorities. In summary, the following has been considered individually for each school:

- i) Floor targets;
- ii) Performance and socio-economic factors;
- iii) Choice, access and diversity – surplus places and oversubscription;
- iv) Condition, suitability and accessibility;

- v) Suitability to deliver extended services;
- vi) Sustainability.

4.5.2 A method has been devised for combining the data and applying a weighting factor to produce a matrix that will give an overall priority. In essence, each factor such as condition, suitability, etc. is scored 1-4 and multiplied by a weighting of 1-3 depending on the relative importance of that factor. The priority list gives an overall indication of relative priorities. However, it is not possible to take into account every possible factor or combination of factors and it will be necessary to amend the priority list to reflect other factors.

4.5.3 The schools priority list is included in Appendix A

4.6 Primary Capital Programme 2009 -10 and 2010 -11

4.6.1 The proposed Primary Capital Programme, devised from consideration of the strategic priorities, the scope of funding available, the prioritization matrix and the needs of individual schools is included in Appendix B.

## **5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1. Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, Children and Young People's Services  
Extn 297750

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report, the main focus of which is the significant investment from various funding streams for use by the authority in compliance with its statutory duties to improve children's well-being (Children Act 2004 refers plus supporting regulations) by the provision of integrated services / facilities achieved by working in partnership with key partners and agencies.

Cathy Healy, Team Leader, Community Legal Services Extn 296712

## **6. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	None	
Policy	None	
Sustainable and Environmental	None	
Crime and Disorder	None	
Human Rights Act	None	
Elderly/People on Low Income	None	

**8. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

None

**9. Consultations**

All schools have been given a copy of the strategy for change, including the proposed priority list and programme. No adverse comments have been received from schools.

**10. Report Author**

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<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)