
Allocation of Basic Need Capital funds to meet primary pupil place planning requirements – Phase 1

Decision to be taken by:
Assistant Mayor and Executive Lead Member for
Education and Children's Services

Lead director: Rachel Dickinson



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: Version 11

1. Summary

This report outlines proposals for the allocation of Basic Need Capital funds to meet pressing City primary pupil place planning requirements. Recommendations are based upon an analysis of the primary school estate in relation to both the condition of schools and the demand for school places across the City (**Appendix A**).

The analysis suggests that a medium term strategy is required to increase the supply of school places across the city to meet future projected demand over a 5 year period. This report outlines the first phase of this capital strategy.

Further reports will be brought forward on future phases, capital maintenance and other related matters.

2. Recommendations

Scrutiny is asked to note this report and Executive is asked to:

1. Note the outcomes of recent feasibility exercises undertaken across the primary estate to identify options to quickly increase capacity in City primary schools.
2. Agree to defer works at Marriott Primary and Hazel Primary (previously recommended in an earlier capital report – 29.3.12) as subsequent detailed feasibility studies now indicate that these sites do not offer sufficient space to meet immediate desired objectives.
3. Approve indicative children's basic need capital programme allocations as outlined in **Appendix B** to deliver this initial phase to meet demand for primary school places.
4. Agree to receive a further Phase 2 Report outlining the remaining options for meeting the pupil place planning demand across the city once a range of related educational decisions have been made.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

This report outlines the rationale for the allocation of basic need children's capital funds for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Background: Local Authorities have statutory duties to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places in their area. LAs must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and that they promote diversity and increase parental choice.

Furthermore, there is a statutory duty to ensure that school buildings are in a suitable state of repair and structural condition to ensure delivery of the curriculum in a safe and secure environment. Capital grant allocations are made from central government to support both of these requirements.

There are currently 4223 permanent reception places available in schools in the city. Current projections suggest that by 2015/16 an additional 682 reception places will be required equating to 4774 additional places across all primary year groups

Published admission numbers (PANs) for 2013 have been raised at schools who have historically taken above their PAN generating an additional 60 reception places reducing the forecasted shortfall to 622 reception places.

To determine how the City will meet this challenge a review of our current school capacities has been undertaken and School Organisation planners have explored a range of options that could be made to meet future demand.

Appendix A shows the schools proposed for immediate expansion together with an indication of future demographic demand by catchment area in the form of births in excess of current Reception PANs. These sites have been selected as they have the potential to be developed quickly and address local needs.

Capital funding is limited and our top priority must be to meet the rising demand for pupil places. Where an opportunity presents however it is important to address priority maintenance works such as health and safety matters at the same time when contractors are on site creating additional place capacity. This will achieve maximum value for money and this principle will inform the programme as works proceed.

Two schemes at Marriott Primary and Hazel Primary were put forward last year for progression subject to more detailed feasibility studies being undertaken. *Feasibility studies have now completed and it is recommended that these schemes are not now progressed at this point as these sites do not offer sufficient space/potential to meet desired objectives.*

Proposals for the children's capital programme for 2012/13 and beyond

The increases in PAN proposed in **Appendix B** could potentially create approximately 380 reception places depending upon a more detailed feasibility study of each scheme including an analysis on the impacts on educational performance.

Appendix B Provides a breakdown of the proposed allocation of basic need capital funding on a site by site basis. The table also provides a detailed breakdown of costs.

Executive are advised that Building Bulletin 99 (BB99) has been used as the standard design template for this work and that this has informed indicative costings. The Government has however recently recommended that all future school developments are based upon a smaller standard/ footprint - effectively BB99 minus 5%. To date, across the country however no school has been constructed to this new specification and this model is therefore unproven. This matter has been discussed with the primary place stakeholder group who have recommended that the City Council continue to adhere to the BB99 standard and officers support this position.

It is anticipated that the completion of the initial programme set out in **Appendix B** will require approximately £15m subject to detailed feasibility on site and the method of construction used. The total uncommitted basic need capital funding is £15.7m based on allocations up to the end of 2012/13.

Phase 2 of the allocation of Basic Need Capital funds to meet primary pupil place planning requirements will be the subject of a separate report once a number of key educational decisions have been made. This will require exploration with stakeholders and the Executive before definitive options can be presented.

A progress report on phase 1 schemes will also be provided.

A number of other vacant and underutilised Council assets have been identified and an options appraisal of these sites will be included in the Phase 2 report.

Next steps

Subject to the agreement of the above recommendations work will start immediately to complete detailed investigations on each site, develop and design these schemes and engage contractors to deliver the projects to meet the increase pupil places required for September 2015.

4. Details of Scrutiny

Consultation to date: The options for increasing primary pupil places across the city have been discussed extensively with members of Property Division, relevant Children's Services colleagues, the Strategic Director City Development and Neighbourhoods, Strategic Director Children's Services and with Councillor Dempster Assistant Mayor & Cabinet Lead Member, Children's Services.

A stakeholder group has been also been established to enable on-going consultation with colleagues in Children's services, Headteachers and Governors of city primary schools and COLGA.

At its latest meeting on 7th February 2013, the group discussed the strategy planning principles and proposals contained within this report and endorsed the list of Phase 1 schools proposed for immediate expansion.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There is currently £15.7m of uncommitted basic need funding and £2.4m of capital maintenance funds based on the following:

- Funding allocations up to and including 2012/13 only
- Completion of immediate starts programmed for 12/13 and the use of £0.8m of the basic need policy provision.
- It does not include any expenditure on the current 13/14 immediate starts programme for Marriot and Hazel Primary schools. The programme of priority works included in **Appendix B** assumes deferral of these schemes into a second phase.
- Ongoing annual commitments in 13/14 for reactive maintenance, temporary places, individual access needs, children centre maintenance and adventure playgrounds totalling £1.5m

On the basis of the cost estimates for the phase one programme outlined in **Appendix B** totalling £15m there is sufficient funding available. Details of the capital maintenance works will follow in another report.

We have recently been notified by the DfE of our new allocations for Basic Need and Capital Maintenance from 2013/14.

We will receive a two year allocation of £14.7m for Basic Need covering the period 2013/14 and 2014/15 and a one year allocation of £6m for Capital maintenance for 2013/14.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

“This report deals with the allocation of the Children’s capital programme 2013/14. There are no legal implications directly arising but legal support will be provided at project level. If the PSBP project for Forest Lodge proceeds there will be a requirement for the Council to provide and certify land information but this is not likely to prove a barrier.

Joanna Bunting, Head of Commercial Law

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

The proposed increase in the size of the primary school estate will result in a significant increase in energy use and carbon dioxide emissions. Primary schools make up approximately one sixth of the Council’s carbon foot print and therefore reducing emissions from primary schools is important if the corporate target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 50% of the 2008/09 level by 2025/26 is going to be met.

Refurbishing the existing primary school buildings and building new classrooms to higher environmental standards will reduce carbon dioxide emissions per m2 floor area, but ultimately further carbon emissions reduction initiatives will needed to meet the corporate target (e.g. support for effective day-to-day energy management in schools).

Mark Jeffcote , Environment Team, Property

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

Investigation is being undertaken to identify if an EIA will be required.

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A: 2010/11 births against 2013 Capacity

Appendix B: Summary of feasibility work undertaken showing priority schools

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

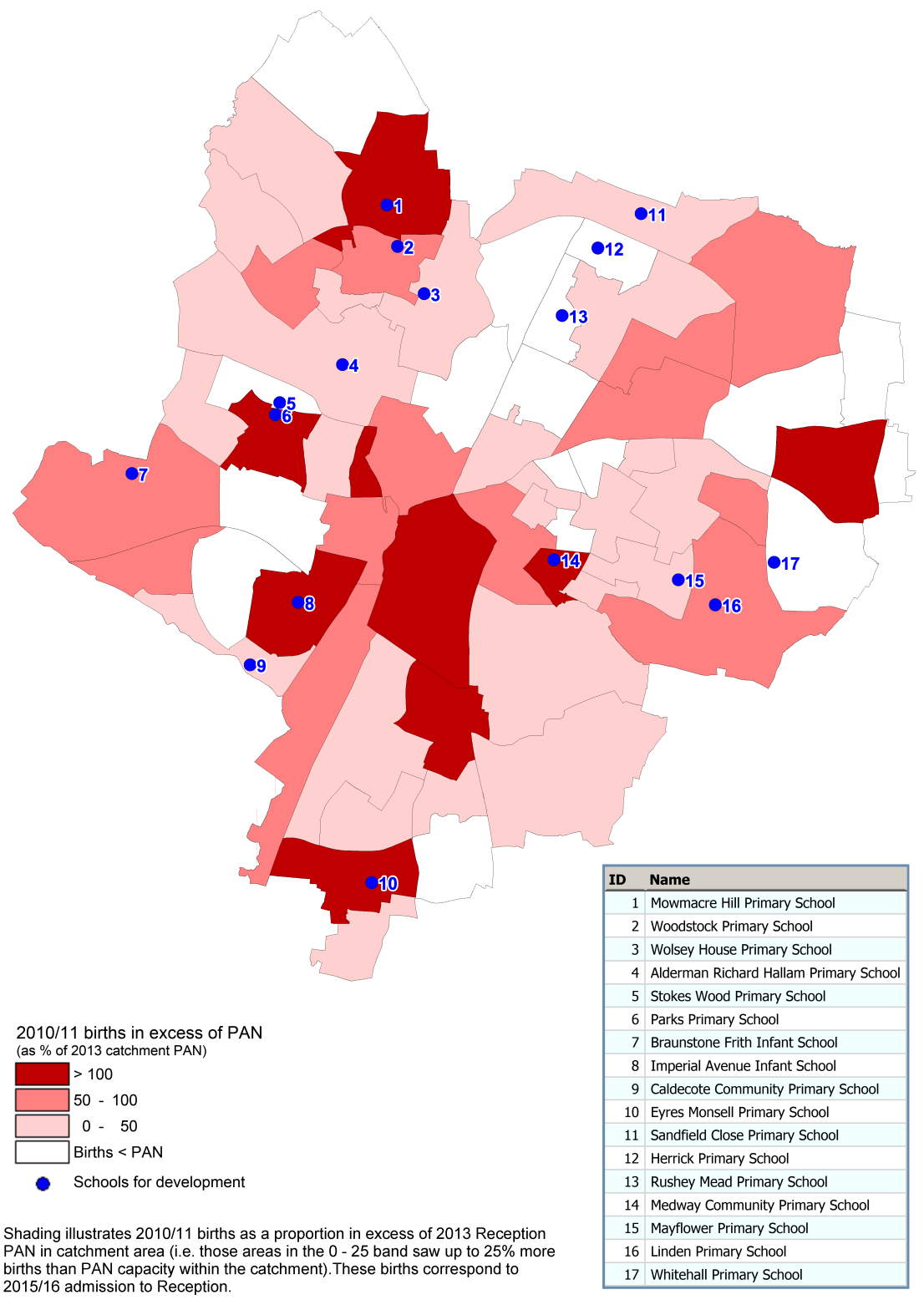
9. Is this a “key decision”?

Yes – Children’s Capital Programme proposals

10. If a key decision please explain reason

Appendix A

2010/11 Births against 2013 Capacity and schools for proposed development



Appendix B

Children's Capital Report - Priority Solutions

Name of School	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Increase PAN	Current classrooms	Classrooms needed for proposed increase	Number of extra classrooms required	Work Required / Recommendation (Using BB99 as standard)	Sq. Mtr Created	Estimated Total Cost
Alderman Richard Hallam	90	120	30	21	28	7 classrooms	Building of 7 new classrooms. There is room around the school to build the extra classrooms needed. Though this will take up approx. 500m ² hard play area.	542	£ 1,711,254
Braunstone Frith Infant and Junior (Amalgamation of)	75	90	15	16	21	5 classrooms 1 infant 4 junior	The junior hall could be extended to create 4 additional class bases with both schools then using the SSA building as their main hall. The infants would need to retain their current hall. An additional class base will need constructing on the Infant building. Plus create a new single story link between the schools providing staff and administration area between the 2 schools. This would provide a common staff room, central reprographics, Head teacher's office, main admin and reception area.	421	£ 1,723,710
Caldecote Primary	60	90	30	14	21	Infant-2 classroom & Junior-2 classroom and moving the staffroom. + building 3 classrooms	Convert existing rooms to classrooms, moving the staffroom and build 3 classrooms.	501	£ 1,013,638
Eyres Monsell Primary	30	60	30	9	14	5 classrooms	Convert 2 current rooms and build 3 classrooms. There are several rooms on site that could be transformed into classrooms. Then there would be a requirement to build a further 3 classrooms.	290	£ 827,200
Herrick Primary	50	60	10	13	14	1 classroom	Creation of 1 classroom. There is sufficient space to put a modular building on the site. For short term this could be accommodated within a mobile.	60	£ 430,500
Imperial Avenue Infant	60	90	30	7	9	2 Classrooms	Converting 2 rooms into classrooms.	120	£ 176,000
Linden Primary	60	90	30	14	21	7 classrooms	To build a 7 classroom extension on site.	542	£ 1,711,254
Mayflower Primary	60	75	15	14	18	4 classrooms	Creation of 2 new classrooms and building of 2 classrooms on site. Hall and staff room will be below size.	270	£ 657,945
Medway Community Primary	60	75	15	14	18	4 classrooms	The school was formerly a 3FE therefore there should be enough space available to create the additional 4 classrooms with some other modifications.	218	£ 257,398

Mowmacre Primary	50	60	10	10	14	4 classrooms	Creation and fit out (FF&E) of the 4 new classrooms. The classroom conversion can be done creating the required classrooms out of the existing rooms. There is currently a Library within an unused hall (140m ²) this could be divided into a Library and a ICT Suite (Internet Cafe) or a DT/Science room and deliver ICT in another way.	364	£	456,578	
Park Primary	45	60	15	12	14	2 classrooms	2 Classrooms conversion	117	£	221,199	
Rushey Mead	60	75	15	14	18	Creation and fit out (FF&E) of 4 new classrooms.	Has had a PAN of 90 in the past but rooms are small less than BB99 sizes.	196	£	213,094	
Sandfield Close Primary	60	90	30	14	21	7 classrooms	Then there would be a requirement of building 7 extra classrooms	542	£	1,867,548	
Stokes Wood Primary	45	60	15	11	14	3 classrooms	The building of a 3 classroom block and link	180	£	666,424	
Whitehall Primary	60	90	30	14	21	7 classrooms	3 classroom conversion and 4 classroom built.	529	£	1,158,876	
Wolsey House Primary	60	90	30	15	21	6 classrooms	The building of a 6 classroom block.	460	£	1,422,555	
Woodstock Primary	60	90	30	12	21	9 classrooms	Creation and fit out (FF&E) of 9 current rooms available.	512	£	503,929	
Total Pupils			380						Total	£	15,019,102