

SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Cabinet Members	Councillor David Simmonds CBE Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolios	Deputy Leader of the Council / Education & Children's Services Finance, Property & Business Services
Officer Contact(s)	Bobby Finch, Residents Services.
Papers with report	Appendix 1: Summary of current school expansion projects.

1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

Summary	This report provides an update on the primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition works programme and other school capital works.
Putting our Residents First	<u>Putting our Residents First</u> <i>Our Built Environment; Our People; Financial Management</i> Investment in schools to adequately address the impact of the population increase within the London Borough of Hillingdon on existing school places. This project also forms part of the Hillingdon Improvement Programme.
Financial Cost	The forecast of the existing Primary Schools capital programme is £138,854k including prior years. The approved budget for the new Primary Schools expansions programme is £27,400k. The Secondary Schools expansion and replacement programme forecast is a total of £142,496k and there is an additional £199k forecast for the Hearing Impairment Resource Base at Vyners School and £1,800k for additional temporary classrooms.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Children, Young People and Learning.
Ward(s) affected	All wards.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the progress made with primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition programme and other school capital projects.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

3. INFORMATION

3.1 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School Places Forecast

The demand for school places in Hillingdon has been rising in recent years and is forecast to continue to rise in line with national and London-wide predictions. Demand for reception places at primary school level is being driven in part by rising birth rates, new house building and families moving into the Borough. Overall, at primary school level, the need for additional school places has largely been met by the successful school places expansion programme to date, with some excess demand forecast in future years, in the north of the Borough and in the Hayes / surrounding areas.

The updated forecast shows that demand for primary places in the north of the Borough appears to be reaching a plateau. However, there remains a residual need for a small number of additional forms of entry. Thirty additional Reception places have been provided at Hillside Infant School for September 2016. Demand for places in the south of the Borough is still forecast to grow, particularly in the Hayes area where there has been significant housing development, with more expected in the future. For 2016, Guru Nanak Academy offered an additional 30 Reception places. Officers are in the process of exploring options to meet this future need and will report back to Members in the first instance for consideration. There has been some interest from school providers in making a bid for a new free school in the Hayes area.

Phase 4 - Permanent School Expansions

Following the Planning Committee on 11 January 2017, the planning application for Hillside Infant and Junior School has been referred to the Secretary of State (Department for Communities and Local Government) due to the objection to a planning application being received from Sport England. The planning application for Warrender Primary School was submitted in November 2016 and received planning consent at the Planning Committee on 1 February 2017.

3.2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School Places Forecast

The rising demand for school places is now moving into secondary schools. The latest forecast shows a longer-term sustained pressure for additional secondary school places, albeit with pressure building at a slower pace than indicated in the 2015 forecast. Over the next five years, it is expected that there will be a need for an additional 11-13 forms of entry. This is in addition to the existing programme of expansions (Northwood, Abbotsfield and Swakeleys schools, which will add 5.5 forms of entry capacity). A new free school, Pinner High School, has opened in Harrow, close to the border with Hillingdon and this has offered an additional choice for Hillingdon residents. All on-time applicants were offered places for September 2016, despite an 8% rise in applications. The recent announcement by the Education Funding Agency of two new secondary Free Schools in the north of the Borough will assist in alleviating the demand pressures. However, no sites have yet been confirmed for these new schools.

Secondary School Expansions (Vyners and Ruislip High School)

Discussions with Vyners and Ruislip High School regarding their potential expansion are continuing. Arcadis LLP have been appointed as multi-disciplinary consultants for these projects and are working with officers to take these projects forward through the design stages.

Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

The school buildings at Abbotsfield, Swakeleys and Northwood Secondary Schools required improvement and have attracted funding from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) Priority School Building Programme for all three schools to be rebuilt. The Abbotsfield and Swakeleys rebuild projects are being managed by the EFA with the exception of the offsite highways works which will be carried out by the Council. The Northwood rebuild project has been managed by the Council.

Northwood School: The old school building has now been demolished and work will now start on creating the new school pitches and other external facilities. The project remains on schedule for completion in July 2017.

Abbotsfield and Swakeleys Schools: The Education Funding Agency appointed contractor has commenced works on the site. The scheduled completion date is December 2017 for the new school buildings. The contractor is currently reporting a delay of 4-5 weeks which they believe can be recovered.

3.3. SCHOOLS CONDITION PROGRAMME

School Condition Programme Phase 2

Work is nearing completion on developing the next phase of the programme and a number of potential projects for inclusion have been identified. The list of projects is currently being finalised and costed and will then be put in order of priority. Once this process has been completed the projects will then be presented in the first instance to Members for consideration and details will be included in a future Cabinet Report.

3.4 PRIORITY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME PHASE 2 (PSBP2)

In 2014 the Department of Education (DfE) announced the availability of funding under Phase 2 of Priority Schools Building Programme which is focused on undertaking major rebuilding and refurbishment works for schools and sixth form colleges in the very worst condition. These projects will be managed directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

The Council submitted 'Expressions of Interest' for a number of maintained schools of which 5 were successful; The Skills Hub, Minet Infant School, Minet Junior School, Harlington School and Meadow High School. Since the announcement of the successful schools The Skills Hub has become an Academy. A further 3 applications made directly by Botwell House Catholic Primary School, Douay Martyrs Catholic School and Queensmead School were also successful.

For the Council maintained schools in the programme (Minet Infant School, Minet Junior School, Harlington School and Meadow High School) the initial meetings between the EFA, their appointed consultants and the schools have now taken place and the EFA are currently in the process of completing their initial feasibility studies for the projects.

3.5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Month 9 Monitoring - Financial Summary

The total Schools Expansion Capital Programme revised budget is £313,186k for the period up to 2020/21 including prior years. This includes £139,637k for existing primary school expansions, £27,400k for new primary school expansions and £144,155k for secondary school expansions and replacements. An additional £194k was added for the provision of a Hearing Impairment Resource Base at Vyners School with a further £1,800k included for additional temporary classrooms as and when the need arises during construction.

The forecast over the life of the schools expansion programme is an under spend of £2,436k representing a favourable movement of £775k from the previous month. This is largely in relation to a reduction in the Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment cost for Abbotsfield School (£596k) following an assessment of the schools requirement. The remaining movement is with respect to the release of further project contingency budgets that are no longer required on completed schemes within the Primary Schools Phase 2 and 3 programmes which are an addition to previously reported sums.

There remains a cost under spend of £61k on the implementation of mobile classrooms at Hillside and Newnham primary schools for bulge year provision. In addition an under spend of £1,062k is reported after completion of Phase 1 of the replacement of Northwood School under the Secondary Schools New Build Programme.

A further £132k has been reported as a cost underspend within the overall programme largely as a result of the minor works budget in place to meet the costs of legacy schemes no longer being required.

Phase 4 - Permanent School Expansions

The potential expansion of three schools will be funded from the initial £27,400k set aside for Phase 4 permanent expansions. The 1 FE expansions at both Hillside and Warrender will proceed as planned whilst the proposed expansion at Newnham will remain under review with the option to expand at a later date if required.

Planning applications have been submitted for both schools although Sporting England has raised an objection with respect to the application for Hillside Infants and Juniors School. The matter has been referred to the Secretary of State awaiting a decision. Any financial implications will be dependent on whether or not planning permission is granted and will be assessed upon a decision being made.

Secondary School Expansions

The revised forecast for secondary school places shows a longer term sustained pressure for additional school places however this is at a slower pace than indicated previously. The additional need of 11-13 FE's is a reduction on the prior reported position.

Discussions have been ongoing with a number of secondary schools regarding expansion and multi disciplinary consultants are undertaking early feasibility and design works for possible expansions.

Costs associated with the expansion of secondary schools to meet future demand (excluding Northwood and Abbotsfield) have been reflected in the revised budget of £95,900k approved by Council in February 2016. The budgetary requirement is being reviewed in light of the revised school places forecast.

In September 2016 the EFA announced the successful application of two Free Secondary Schools in the north of the Borough. The progress of the proposals would be dependent on the availability of suitable sites. These schools can assist in meeting the aforementioned secondary school places with the potential to have a favourable impact on the existing capital investment programme.

Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 1 (Secondary Schools Replacement)

Northwood - Phase 1 of the construction works at Northwood Secondary School is complete and Phase 2 to demolish the old building and external works is underway. The demolition of the old school building has now completed and works have commenced on creating new school pitches and other external facilities. As noted above the overall forecast outturn is an under spend of £1,062k partly due to released contingencies on Phase 1 of the project that are no longer required and also savings on furniture, fittings and equipment.

Abbotsfield / Swakeley's School - The Education Funding Agency (EFA) are managing the rebuilding of Abbotsfield school through the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) with the Council making a contribution of £13,070k covering an additional 2.5 forms of entry, FF&E and highways works, a vocational centre and additional SRP provision for Abbotsfield School.

The highways works will include the provision of 50 drop-off places (£460k) and a S106 contribution to Transport for London (£375k) in relation to the cost impact of increased bus services for higher pupil numbers arising from the Abbotsfield expansion. The Council will also fund the provision of photovoltaic panels for the additional 2.5 FE and the vocational centre at a combined cost of £141k.

Swakeley's School is an approved rebuild project being managed 100% by the EFA following an independent application by the school to be considered for the PSBP programme. However, following negotiations with the EFA the Council has agreed to fund up to one third of the S106 TFL contribution for Swakeleys estimated to be £75k.

The project is reporting an under spend of £596k resulting from savings on FF&E as reported previously. Officers remain confident that the remaining budget is sufficient to meet all other costs including the S278 highway works.

Schools Condition Programme

The 2016/17 revised capital programme budget for the Schools Conditions Building Programme is £3,808k which is financed from a combination of internal and external resources including school contributions.

The revised budget is required to fund nine Phase 1 priority schemes approved by Cabinet in January 2016. The budget is also required to meet the retention and legacy costs of prior year schemes whilst £100k was also set aside as a provision for winter contingency for potential reactive capital maintenance.

Works are complete at eight of the nine schools that comprise the Phase 1 main School Conditions Programme with invoices having been raised to recover the agreed school contributions. There may be works required at Newnham School whilst the expansions project remains under review.

Works have been identified at several schools to comprise the Phase 2 of the programme. Officers are in the process of finalising the list based on priority to present to Members in the first instance. However these works will not commence until the next financial year resulting in a budget slippage of £1,547k.

Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2 (Major Rebuild and Refurbishment)

The Council submitted expressions of interest for a number of schools to attract funding for major refurbishment as part of the PSBP 2 programme. It was successful in attracting funding for four directly maintained schools and the Hillingdon Tuition Centre.

The EFA appointed consultants are currently undergoing preliminary feasibility works to assess the condition needs at the schools. The programme is being delivered directly by the EFA and therefore the current capital investment programme has no budget provision set aside for PSBP2.

4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

Completion of the school expansion projects will result in additional school places needed for local children, which the Council has a statutory duty to provide. In addition the completion of the other school capital projects will result in the provision of quality fit for purpose school facilities.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

A statutory process is required for expansion of a local authority maintained school premises if this will increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200, whichever is the lesser. The statutory process includes publication of proposals, statutory consultation and a Cabinet or Cabinet Member decision. Statutory proposals for the expansion of Hillside Infant and Junior schools and Warrender Primary were published for consultation on 18 January 2017.

Under the School Admissions Code, the local authority as admissions authority for community schools must consult at least the school governing body on the admission number. Foundation schools and academies are their own admissions authority and set their own admission number.

5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms the budgetary position outlined above, noting that the Council's significant programme of investment in school places is funded from a combination of Department for Education grants, developer contributions and locally financed Prudential Borrowing. The levels of demand and investment requirements outlined in this report are fully reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast and refreshed Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice is provided whenever necessary, in particular cases, to ensure that the Council's Interests are protected.

Corporate Property and Construction

Corporate Property and Construction authored this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX 1

Summary of current school expansion projects

School Name	Summary of Works	Status
PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME - PHASE 4		
Hillside Infant & Junior	1 FE Expansion.	Pre-construction.
Warrender Primary	1 FE Expansion.	Pre-construction.
SECONDARY SCHOOLS (PRIORITY SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME)		
Northwood School	1 FE Expansion: Demolition of existing school and construction of a new 6 FE school.	Phase 1 complete Phase 2 will be completed in July 2017
Abbotsfield School	2.5 FE Expansion: Demolition of existing school and construction of a new 9 FE school.	Works scheduled to be completed in 2017
Swakeleys School for Girls	2 FE Expansion: Demolition of existing school and construction of a new 8 FE school.	Works scheduled to be completed in 2017

Note: A Form of Entry (FE) is a group of 30 pupils. Expanding a school by 1 FE will add accommodation sufficient for 30 additional pupils to every year group.