

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 & 2016/17		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	15 SEPTEMBER 2015 16 SEPTEMBER 2015		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
N/A			

## SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals for the Council's spending priorities within the Capital Programme for 2015/16 and future years, in line with Council priorities.

The report seeks approval to add £6.6M of expenditure to the Education and Children's Social Care (E&CSC) Capital Programme. This report also seeks approval for spend of £6.6M of expenditure within the E&CSC Capital Programme for works taking place in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

The approvals required for Springwell School form part of a separate and detailed report on the Cabinet/Council agenda. Therefore, these approvals and financial amounts are not included within this report or recommendations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**CABINET** are requested:

- (i) To note the contents of this report and the request for approval from Council.

**COUNCIL** are requested:

- (i) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital variations totalling £2.006M to the E&CSC Capital Programme from the non-ringfenced Department for Education Basic Need capital grant;
- (ii) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £3.328M to the E&CSC Capital Programme, to the Capital Maintenance programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 funded from non-ringfenced Department for Education Capital Maintenance

- grant;
- (iii) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £1.266M to the E&CSC Capital Programme, to the School Expansions: Phase 3 programme as detailed in Appendix 1, funded from non-ringfenced Department for Education Basic Need capital grant;
- (iv) To approve, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £6.6M, phased £4.288M in 2015/16 and £2.312M in 2016/17, within the E&CSC Capital Programme to carry out works as detailed in Appendix 1. This includes approval for expenditure on Primary Review Phase 3.

## **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Council has a number of priorities for investment within the E&CSC portfolio, which are highlighted within this report. As such, the above recommendations seek to ensure that the resources available to the Authority are allocated to these proposals, in order that the relevant projects can be commenced. This relates directly to the Executive Commitment to *'invest to ensure good local schools'*.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. The proposals contained within this report represent the means by which the Council can best deliver its stated objectives and responsibilities in terms of school organisation and estate maintenance. The option of not carrying out these proposals would necessarily result in a delay in project commencement and, potentially, a failure to deliver on key objectives for the current financial year and beyond.
3. All of the capital schemes proposed within this report have significant priority and require immediate investment. The rationale underpinning each scheme differs from programme to programme, as set out below:
- Capital Maintenance – based on the need to undertake significant works relating to health & safety and statutory compliance issues.
  - School Expansion – based on the need to provide sufficient pupil places to meet demand, in line with the Council's statutory duty in this respect.

## **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

4. The investment proposals for Education & Children's Social Care for 2015/16 and beyond are as follows:
- Capital Repairs and Maintenance**
5. **R&M Planned Programme (£2,250,000 - 2015/16 & £350,000 - 2016/17)**
- There is presently a backlog maintenance schedule of approximately £20m at maintained schools in Southampton. Many of these condition-related items have a direct bearing on schools' ability to function (e.g. boilers, roofs, windows) and, as such, it is important that capital is set aside on an annual basis to address the most pressing of these demands. The capital allocation proposed by this report will deal with just over half of Priority 1 issues identified in maintained schools' condition surveys.

It is important that a certain element of the identified funding is “held back”, in order to provide for unforeseen issues/events that may arise throughout the course of the year, such as emergency roof repairs or boiler replacement, over and above the planned programme. In the event of an unforeseen occurrence, in the first instance, the current E&CSC planned capital programme will be looked at to see if any reprioritisation can be made before drawing on this budget allocation.

6. Asbestos Management (£250,000 - 2015/16)

The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide an ongoing programme of asbestos management for all its maintained schools that are affected by this issue. The cost of this inspection and works programme is generally stable from each financial year to the next.

7. Schools Access Initiative (£150,000 - 2015/16)

The Council has an ongoing statutory responsibility to provide accessibility to educational facilities for children with disabilities, which requires adaptations to be made to school buildings. This programme of work is reactive, with money being spent in response to requests from schools throughout the course of a given year. Previous examples of work carried out include the provision of access ramps, accessible toilets, stair lifts and changing benches. Again, the level of spend is generally consistent, although there is a gradual tend for expenditure to increase year-on-year, as the numbers of children with disabilities educated within a mainstream setting increases.

8. Project Management (£80,000 - 2015/16)

The cost of additional project management time for these proposals is £80,000 for 2015/16. This will fund three existing Project Manager posts in the Strategy & Capital Programme Team in the People Directorate.

9. Health and Safety (incl. Fire Risk Assessments) (£248,000 - 2015/16)

Contractual delays in 2014/15 means that the programme of post-FRA implementation is behind schedule and additional costs will need to be met this year, having underspent (due to the delays) in 2014/15. An ongoing programme of wider H&S compliance works has been agreed.

**School Expansions: Phase 3**

10. Current pupil forecasting data indicates that the 2015/16 Year R intake represents a peak year for demand met by the capacity already built into the system under Primary Review: Phase 2. After this peak year (i.e. from 2016/17 onwards), pupil numbers are forecast to drop back. In practice this year's admissions process highlighted that although this position is true for the city as a whole (with 96% of on-time applications being allocated one of their three preferred schools), there was a significant shortfall of places in the Woolston/Weston area.

This has resulted in the creation of a bulge class in that area for 2015/16 and the need to increase capacity on a more sustainable basis for 2016/17 and beyond. This second issue will be the subject of a separate report.

11. Weston Park Primary - Bulge Class (£100,000 – 2015/16)

This enables us to meet the short-term needs for Year R capacity in this part

of the East planning area.

12. The Polygon School expansion – Morris House (£456,000 – 2015/16)  
This enables us to purchase Morris House from Southern NHS Trust to meet the needs of The Polygon School for additional provision; to provide an evening and weekend base for activities related to the Restorative Practice Network sponsored by the Youth Offending Service and for the Headstart programme, which is funded by the BIG Lottery
13. Start Point Sholing – to accommodate Springwell Special School 2015/16 Year R intake (£110,000 – 2015/16)  
These works are required to provide accommodation for the Springwell 2015 Year R group of 24 children who could not be admitted to the Springwell main school site due to the failure of the tendering process earlier this year. Some adaptations to staff accommodation at Springwell are also included as these could not be made at the Sholing site.
14. Bitterne Park planning obligations (£200,000 – 2015/16)  
Bitterne Park Secondary School is being re-built and its capacity expanded from 1,500 to 1,800 under the Priority Schools Building Programme, funded by the DfE and delivered by the Education Funding Agency. As a result of the expansion, it is likely that the planning approval will require SCC to make adaptation to highways and access arrangements. This sum is to cover potential costs, including legal fees, relating to the likely obligations.
15. Springhill Primary Academy School one modular building (£50,000 – 2015/16 & £350,000 – 2016/17)  
This allows for expansion by one bulge class to meet the forecast shortfall of places in the Central planning area. This is subject to further discussions with the Trust and the Diocese before agreement to proceed can be reached, but there is agreement in principle.
16. Springwell Special School Expansion (£1.3M)  
This additional allocation for the scheme is the subject of a separate report elsewhere on this agenda, following the addition of £1.4M approved by Cabinet in March 2015.

**Phase 3 schemes to be the subject of future business cases for 2016/17**

17. St Patrick's Catholic Primary (£203,000 – 2016/17)  
This is to fund an additional classroom, which forms the final element of expansion of this school, which although drawing on a city-wide catchment, will help meet the shortfall of places in the East planning area.
18. Bitterne Park Autism Resource Base - ARB (£150,000 – 2016/17)  
At present the school operates an ARB to support pupils with high levels of assessed Special Educational Needs, including those with Statements or Education Health & Care Plans. The specialist provision within the current buildings will not be replicated as part of the PSBP work referred to above. One of the current school buildings can be retained and refurbished to provide this resource (and offers the opportunity to expand the capacity of the ARB from 9 to up to 20 pupils). This work would be managed under a

formal agreement between SCC and the EFA as part of their larger contract to extract maximum value for spend to avoid the loss of this provision and to have in place the capacity to expand that will be needed as the secondary age population increases.

### **Scheme Variations**

19. The following approved schemes under the Primary Review Phase 2 have significant variations to the agreed budgets from within the DfE Basic Need capital grant. Scheme by scheme are summarised in Appendix 1. Further work is underway to account for some of the significant differences between the costs on which the original approvals were sought and the detailed costs now in place.
20. Tanners Brook Junior (£32,000 - 2015/16)  
This scheme covers both the costs of the relocation of the community facilities and a (now reduced) scale of expansion of numbers, based on lower demand for Year R places. A small increase of £32,000 is required for 2015/16.
21. Shirley Warren Primary School (£260,000 - 2015/16)  
This scheme is to convert the old portage room into a classroom and build a new class above the year R playground and convert the staffroom to another classroom.
22. Fairisle Infant & Nursery Schools (£189,000 - 2015/16)  
This is the cost of a two classroom modular build to create the agreed additional capacity. The sum originally sought and approved amounted to only half the (now accurately) estimated cost.
23. Fairisle Junior (£550,000 in 2016/17)  
This is the cost of a four classroom expansion. The sum originally sought and approved amounted to only half the (now accurately) estimated cost.
24. Bitterne Manor Primary (£96,000 - 2015/16)  
Internal alterations will provide one additional bulge classroom (roofing works at £220,000 are being funded from within the agreed R&M budget).
25. St John's Primary & Nursery (£418,000 reduction in 2015/16 & 2016/17)  
There is a significant reduction in the costs of this scheme in both this year and next, compared to the previously approved budget. The reduction totals £418,000.
26. Portswood Primary (additional £100,000) (2016/17)  
Following the failure of the modular-build tendering process earlier this year (which has resulted in the school having to make temporary arrangements for Sept 2015) a re-tendering exercise involving a specification for a traditional build to provide the permanent increase in capacity at the school will be undertaken and provision is sought for an additional sum to be added to the approved capital allocation in anticipation of potential higher costs.
27. Valentine Primary School Westwood Block (£341,000) (2016/17)  
The EFA will be re-building the existing block as part of the PSBP Phase2 and this budget provision is to enable us to add up to three additional

classrooms since the EFA funding is for like-for-like replacement only. This additional capacity is part of the agreed programme but implementation delayed to fit with EFA timescale.

28. Sholing Junior (£747,000) (2016/17)

This is to increase capacity by four classrooms at significantly increased cost to the original estimate. The sum originally sought and approved amounted to only half the (now accurately) estimated cost.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Capital/Revenue

29. The changes to the programme contained in this report are summarised in the table below and detailed in *Appendix 1*.

	<b>Additions £000s</b>
2015/16	4,288.0
2015/16 (Springwell phase 1 already added)	1,400.0
2014/15 Others	480.6
2016/17	3,612.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,780.6</b>

30. It is proposed that the additional expenditure will be funded from the following sources and it is anticipated that the 2015/16 funding will be received in advance of expenditure taking place:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Confirmed £000's</b>
Capital Maintenance Grant 2015/16	4,614.0
Basic Need Grant 2015/16	4,709.0
Basic Needs Grant 2016/17 Provisional	480.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,803.6</b>

31. The revenue costs of all schools are met from the Individual Schools Budget funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The amount of DSG that the authority receives each year is based on the number of children in the city. If the city's overall numbers grow, this will result in an increase in the amount of grant received which can be passed onto schools via budget shares calculated using Southampton's School Funding Formula.

### Property/Other

32. These proposals will assist in reducing the current overall backlog maintenance and improve capacity at key schools.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

33. The power to provide and maintain educational facilities as proposed in this report is set out in the Education Act 1996.

**Other Legal Implications:**

34. The proposals set out in this report are brought forward having regard to the Council’s statutory responsibilities as a duty holder for health & safety in schools in accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated secondary legislation. Provisions for the increase of security of school sites are designed having regard to the Council’s duties under s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (exercise of functions having regard to the need to reduce or eliminate crime or disorder). All services and works will be procured and implemented in accordance with national procurement legislation and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and having regard to the Councils duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

35. The capital investment proposed for Southampton’s schools within this report will contribute to the outcomes of both the 14-19 Strategy and Children & Young People’s Plan by improving the condition, suitability and efficiency of the City’s school estate as well as meeting the Executive Commitment to invest in schools. Some of the investment that is brought forth under these proposals will have to be mindful of the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan. Alignment of the proposals with the aims of this plan will be achieved through the involvement of relevant officers on the appropriate project steering group(s).

**KEY DECISION?** Yes

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Education & Children’s Social Care Capital Programme Summary
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**Documents In Members’ Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?	No
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**Other Background Documents**

**Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. None	

