



Primary Strategy for Change

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To support the principles outlined in the Primary Strategy for Change consultation document.
- 1.2 To comment on specific aspects of the proposals as part of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has announced a major long-term programme of capital investment for primary schools. This is the Primary Capital Programme. Derby has been allocated £3.8m in the 2009/10 financial year and £6.2m in 2010/11. Thereafter, we may receive around £3m each year through to 2023. To access the funding, we need to submit a Primary Strategy for Change to the DCSF by 16 June 2008.
- 2.2 There is detailed guidance on the format of the Strategy. We have to demonstrate that the funding will be used to:
 - transform education, improve attainment and target areas of deprivation
 - take out of use the 10% worst buildings in the city and refurbish a further 40%
 - reduce surplus places so that no school has more than 25% surplus places and that the level across the city is below 10%

We also have to show how the strategy takes account of ICT, the Every Child Matters agenda, including special educational needs, extended services, healthy schools and healthy eating; and choice and diversity.

- 2.3 The consultation document attached at Appendix 2 reflects discussions already undertaken with school clusters, diocesan authorities, local authority officers, partners and other stakeholders. Formal consultation started on 28 April 2008 and lasts until 19 May. A report will then be taken to Cabinet on 3 June 2008.

- 2.4 The draft Strategy includes principles for designing schools to deliver a 21st century curriculum. Raising attainment in the most deprived areas is the key challenge, and there will be a focus on modernising buildings where their current condition or layout is impeding the effective delivery of a modern curriculum. The strategy sees schools as being at the heart of their communities, with extended and integrated services delivered on site where possible.
- 2.5 The overall level of surplus places across the city is only slightly above the national average, but there are particular areas with high levels. Area Reviews were previously agreed by Council Cabinet in January 2006 to address the issue of surplus places in particular parts of the city. It is proposed to go forward with these reviews, but with some modifications to the boundaries of the areas. These will produce specific proposals which will be delivered later in the programme; where changes to school organisation are necessary, this will result in a longer lead-in time because of the need to go out to competition. There is a preferred model of a two-form entry primary school, but this may not be the appropriate solution in all cases.
- 2.6 A scoring mechanism has been developed to prioritise schools, taking into account building condition, attainment, deprivation and surplus places or oversubscription levels. The scores will be updated annually, but will not be used rigidly; they are more of an indication to inform priorities. Specific schemes are proposed as priorities for the first two years of the programme, through to 2011.
- 2.7 The Commission is asked to endorse the general principles in the draft strategy and to make comments which can inform the final version which will be taken to Cabinet.

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Background papers:	DCSF guidance to local authorities
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Consultation document

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The confirmed and likely allocations are set out in paragraph 2.1. The funding will be joined up with other capital funding streams such as devolved capital and modernisation funding. Prudential borrowing may be used where specific schemes result in savings within the Schools Budget.
- 1.2 Detailed costings for schemes proposed in 2009/10 and 2010/11 will be included in the final version submitted to DCSF.

Legal

2. Any changes to school organisation following from the Area reviews will need to comply with the current legal framework on publication of statutory proposals and the need for a competition in most cases.

Personnel

3. Additional staffing resources will be needed to deliver the programme. Where possible, scheme management costs will be capitalised, but there will also be project management costs relating to the area reviews and any subsequent work relating to school organisational changes, should these be proposed.

Equalities impact

4. Raising attainment in areas of deprivation is a high priority and has been taken into account in the weightings used to score individual schools.

Corporate Priorities

5. The Primary Capital Programme will particularly support the corporate priority of “Supporting everyone in learning and achieving”. There is an impact, however, on all the other priorities because of the links to regeneration masterplanning, community participation, environmental sustainability, sporting facilities, ICT and procurement.