



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**ADMISSIONS FORUM  
5 MARCH 2008**

Corporate Director for Children and Young  
People

# ITEM 7

## Primary Capital Programme

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 The government is making funding available to local authorities for the Primary Capital Programme. This is a long-term programme through to 2023.
- 1.2 To access the funding, we have to submit a Primary Strategy for Change by 16 June 2008.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Admissions Forum is requested to comment on principles relating to admissions which ought to contribute to the Council's Primary Strategy for Change.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 As the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is dealing with the refurbishment of the whole secondary school estate, the government has introduced a new capital funding stream to ensure that primary schools also benefit. The commitment is to renew at least half of all primaries nationally by 2022/23.
- 3.2 Derby's allocation will be £3.786m in 2009/10 and £6.164m in 2010/11. Thereafter, the national funding is expected to be £500m per year, which would imply an annual allocation for Derby of at least £2.5m. For comparison, the cost of the completely new Village Primary in Normanton is estimated at £8.1m, with most of the cost spread over two financial years.
- 3.3 To access the funding, we will have to submit a Primary Strategy for Change by 16 June 2008. This will need to be no more than 15-20 pages in length and cover the whole 14 year period, though with more detail for the earlier years. Authorities with a Local Education Partnership (LEP) set up as part of BSF are expected to deliver part of the Primary Programme through PFI.
- 3.4 The Primary Strategy for Change should comprise five core elements
  - the local perspective
  - baseline analysis, including standards, link to integrated children's services, responsiveness to parental choice and ICT

- long-term aims – how investment priorities will reflect national and local plans, again including ICT
- approach to change, including use of other funding streams and procurement
- initial investment priorities, including specific projects within the Comprehensive Spending Review period

3.5 The baseline analysis should include information on:

- anticipated future demand for pupil places (e.g. demographic changes, new housing);
- current levels and location of surplus places for all primary schools, particularly for those schools that are 25% or more below capacity;
- overall diversity of provision and responsiveness to parents: self-governing status, successful and popular schools that could expand

3.6 Long-term aims should cover:

- raising standards by strengthening school governance – for example through the creation of Trusts and migrating schools to a self-governing status;
- a robust analysis of how surplus places will be addressed at local authority and individual school level;
- increasing diversity, choice and access to popular and successful schools, including details of expansions that may be considered, and plans for establishing new schools in response to parental preference;
- details on how the authority has sought parents' views and how it has responded to parental demands and concerns;
- considering the potential for all-age Academies

3.7 There is an expectation that the strategy should contain measures to reduce surplus places so that no school has more than 25% surplus capacity and that there are less than 10% surplus places across the local authority. The strategy should also comply with the government's drive for choice and diversity.

3.8 There will be a formal consultation process before the strategy is submitted to the DCSF. To inform the content of the strategy, Admissions Forum members are requested to suggest principles which ought to be contained within it. The strategy will be taking account of the existing Primary Place Planning Strategy previously endorsed by the Admissions Forum and Council Cabinet.

<p><b>For more information contact:</b> Keith Howkins 01332 716916 keith.howkins@derby.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Background papers:</b> DCSF guidance on Primary Strategy for Change</p>
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