



COUNCIL CABINET
8 February 2005

Report of the Chair of the Education Commission

Education Capital Funding 2005/06 and 2007/08

RECOMMENDATION

1. That those elements of the Commission's review of School Place Planning that could be moved forward should be considered by Council Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 17 January 2005 the Education Commission received a presentation from the Director of Education, on Education Capital Funding for 2005/06 – 2007/08.
- 2.2 The Commission were informed that Department for Education and Skills (DfES) had announced capital allocations for the next three years and that the Council's allocation had fallen from £10.8m in 2004/05 to £9.4m in 2005/06, a reduction of £1.4m. It was also reported that the Council had not been included in the next two waves of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The Commission was told that the backlog of condition issues in Derby schools remained at around £40m. The Commission was also told that the level of capital funding for 2005/06 – 2007/08 meant that the Council would have to use much of its decreasing capital allocation to keep inadequate school premises open and to attempt to address the large condition backlog.
- 2.3 The Director also referred to the issue of school place planning and confirmed that new guidance which was being drafted by the DfES, would have a significant impact on place planning strategies.

Issue(s)

- 2.4 Having considered the information provided, Commission members expressed disappointment that Derby City Council had not been included in the next two waves of the BSF programme. There was also concern about the prospect of having to put money into the repair of schools that were in fundamentally poor condition.

2.5 Commission members also asked about progress with implementing the recommendations it had made following its review of school place planning. Members expressed concern that the recommendations would be out of date by the time they were considered properly by Council Cabinet. The Director agreed that this was possible if the guidance being prepared by the DfES set new standards. He acknowledged that if members wished, an update on elements of the report could be brought back to the Commission.

Conclusions of the Commission

2.6 It was the view of the Commission that there was no need for the School Place Planning report to be brought back to the Commission and that those elements of the report that could be moved forward should instead be referred to Council Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Recommendations of the Commission

2.7 Those elements of the School Place Planning report that could be moved forward should be considered by Council Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Reasons for Commission's Recommendations

2.8 The Commission considered that the work that had been done on the review of School Place Planning was important and should as a matter of urgency be given due consideration by Council Cabinet.

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Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. If implemented the Commission's recommendations on school place planning could be of benefit to all Derby people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. This report links to the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change:

Corporate Objectives: Education

Priorities for Change: Responding to people's needs appropriately.