

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	26 September 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources) and Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Schools Modernisation Programme Update and Transfer of Funding to St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton and St Charles' Primary School, Cambuslang
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the Schools Modernisation Programme as it nears completion;
- ◆ recognise that growth in pupil numbers remains a current issue and that monitoring of the adequacy of the school estate will be an ongoing process; and
- ◆ seek approval to use identified funding to allow 2 primary school extension projects to commence.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the near completion and achievements of the Council's School Modernisation Programme, be noted;
- (2) that the two projects required due to current capacity issues (St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton and St Charles' Primary School), and the proposed funding package detailed in section 7, be approved; and
- (3) that a further update will be provided to Committee as required as part of a future long term strategy on capital spend, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. In 2004 the Council gave a commitment to the Schools Modernisation Programme with the vision of replacing the entire school estate with modern accommodation fit for learning in the 21st century. Since then the programme has been implemented in agreement with Housing & Technical Resources, Finance and Corporate Resources and a range of other partners.
- 3.2. Out with the PPP contract for our 19 secondary schools, there are only 3 projects remaining in the modernisation programme – Underbank Primary School, Walston Primary School and the Early Learning Unit. In addition, there are a small number of projects where the final elements of demolitions, playground landscaping or MUGA pitch works are to be finalised. The last new build project will be completed by summer 2019 and will see the Council having rebuilt or majorly refurbished 128 primary schools and 12 standalone nurseries at a total cost of £866 million.

- 3.3. We believe the modernisation programme to be one of excellence allowing children and young people to experience learning in a welcoming, bright, spacious and modern environment. Our schools are inspiring places for pupils to learn and teachers to teach and will assist in further improving achievement and raising educational attainment.
- 3.4. Although the original Primary Schools Modernisation Programme is nearing completion, Education Resources continues to operate within an environment of pupil change that will necessitate further periodic accommodation adjustments.
- 3.5. The primary pupil population predictions made at the inception of the Schools Modernisation Programme (2003) were based on 2001 National Census figures published by the General Registrar of Scotland and the census of school rolls undertaken in September 2002.
- 3.6. At that time, it was predicted that the pupil population would decrease to 21,700 (14%) between 2003 and 2013. In reality, there were 24,000 primary pupils in 2013, 10% more than predicted. In addition, after factoring in future known planned housing expansion there will be around 26,000 primary pupils in 2020, more than 4,000 additional pupils than was anticipated at the beginning of the building programme.
- 3.7. To absorb the pressures of more pupils there has been on-going review and consideration of catchment changes; the use of general purpose rooms, ICT rooms and open spaces for class teaching; use of second class teachers and other adaptations or building works paid from the current capital funding due to end in 2019/2020. However, it remains that there will be insufficient accommodation to cater for pupils in some schools and areas.
- 3.8. As it is recognised that growth in pupil numbers remains a current issue and that monitoring of the school estate will be an ongoing process, some immediate projects have been identified which require a funding solution to allow them to progress.
- 3.9. In the immediate term, there are two schools where accommodation pressures exist and where an interim solution is in place, but a permanent solution is required.

4. Schools Modernisation Programme / Growth and Capacities

- 4.1. The Schools Modernisation Programme in its existing format ends in 2019. In addition, the Council has a Growth and Capacities budget within the overall Capital Programme. An exercise has been undertaken to review the budget needed to complete the approved school projects. Based on current predictions, it is anticipated that a saving of £3.000 million against a remaining programme budget of £21.420 million, will be realised in 2019/2020.

5. Immediate Projects

St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton

- 5.1. The original build provided 11 classrooms, then the conversion of the ICT suite increased this to 12 classrooms. However with rising pupil numbers this was increased to 14 classes as a result of adaptations to the school's general purpose room, and the playground siting of a mobile teaching unit, which is only a short term solution.
- 5.2. At census the school had a pupil roll of 403 and is expected to remain at this level or increase given the proposed house building in the area. The school requires 15 classroom to operate efficiently.

- 5.3. Ideally, to provide sufficient break out space and additional learning and teaching space, 15 classrooms and a replacement general purpose room would be required for a school of this size. However, due to site constraints, there is only sufficient space to provide a two classroom expansion, with the general purpose room continuing to be used as the 15th classroom.

St Charles' Primary School, Cambuslang

- 5.4. The school was built with 10 classrooms and a two classroom, modular extension with temporary planning consent was provided in 2015. At census, the school had a roll of 380.
- 5.5. The pupil roll is set to increase with a further 103 additional pupils expected to be generated from the final phase of the Newton Community Growth Area giving, a future predicted pupil roll of 483.
- 5.6. A feasibility study was undertaken and the proposed project would be an extension with 5 classrooms plus a general purpose area. A 5 classroom extension is the maximum that could be constructed on this site adhering to legislative compliance in terms of the Schools Premises Regulation 1967.
- 5.7. As part of the monitoring and review process of school accommodation, other factors such as catchment review was considered but neighbouring schools would not be able to manage additional pupils, and these two schools are already using additional second class teachers within a classroom, a process which is costly to the annual revenue budget and a poor use of teacher resources at a time when there is a national shortage.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. In terms of employee costs, the use of additional class teachers in these schools will be reduced. Where pupil growth continues, the allocation of teachers and school management will be in accordance with the normal annual budget setting process for schools.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. In respect of these 2 projects, the estimated costs have been identified as £4.4 million as shown in the table below. Developer contributions totalling £0.4 million have been identified which will reduce the Council's funding requirement to £4.0 million.
- 7.2. As noted in section 4, the original Schools Modernisation Programme is near completion and taking this and the budget available from the Growth and Capacities programme, a saving of £3 million has been identified against the projected budget need. It is proposed that this £3 million is used to reduce the funding shortfall to £1 million.
- 7.3. To manage this shortfall, it is proposed that the £1 million be funded through borrowing. Through borrowing the Council will require to repay the debt, and interest costs. These costs, which will be payable from 2020/2021, are estimated at £0.049 million per annum. This can be managed within the saving generated through the reduced use of additional class teachers (6.1. above).

Project: Costs and Proposed Funding Solution	Est. Cost	Est. Completion Date
1. St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton	£0.7m	2019
2. St.Charles' Primary School, Cambuslang	£3.7m	2020
Total Funding Shortfall	£4.4m	
Funding Solutions:		
Developer Contributions	£0.4m	
Underspend Education Resources capital budgets	£3.0m	
Borrowing	£1.0m	
Total Funding Solution	£4.4m	

- 7.4. Work continues to be undertaken to identify future accommodation issues and a further report will be brought to a later Executive Committee as part of the future long term strategy on capital investment.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. As the tracking and forecasting of trends in pupil numbers, and the monitoring of potential resultant pressures on school accommodation is ongoing, the content of this report does not constitute a new policy or strategy and therefore no equality impact assessment is required.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

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Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

3 September 2018

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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