

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 46

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Primary Strategy for Change
Date of Meeting: 8 September 2008
Report of: Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Name: Gil Sweetenham Tel: 293433
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Key Decision: Yes Forward Plan No. CYP 2365
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 In line with the Council's policy to ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to excel, this report informs Members on the preparation of the Primary Strategy for Change which will inform our priorities for capital investment in primary schools for the next fourteen years. The report outlines the consultation that has / will be undertaken as part of the development of the Strategy for Change and seeks approval of the Strategy for Change document.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Primary Strategy for Change be approved.
- 2.2 That the responses to the consultation undertaken during June, July and September be noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 On 10th October 2007 allocations for the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) were announced. Brighton and Hove were allocated £3.075 million for 2009/10 and £5.453million for 2010/11.
- 3.2 The Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) fully launched the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) in December 2007. At that time it published guidance on the preparation of a Primary Strategy for Change that Local Authorities would need to produce to access funding allocated as part of the programme.

- 3.3 The governments stated aims for the PCP is that it will create primary schools fit for 21st century learning at the heart of the community with a range of children's services in reach of every family.
- 3.4 The PCP is expected to deliver a strategic approach to capital investment supporting national policy aims and delivering world class standards and access to joined up services.
- 3.5 The DCSF see authorities rebuilding, remodelling or refurbishing at least half of all primary schools, including taking out of use at least 5% of school buildings in the worst physical condition.
- 3.6 The priorities for investment in any local authority are expected to be transformational in respect of teaching and learning in the primary sector.
- 3.7 The first stage of this transformational journey is to prepare a Primary Strategy for Change. This document comprises 5 core elements: the local perspective, baseline analysis, long term aims, approach to change and initial investment priorities. The most important aspect of the Strategy for Change is that it should set out our education vision for the primary sector for the next 14 years.
- 3.8 It is this vision that will inform the shape of the primary stock needed to deliver the vision rather than the other way around.
- 3.9 The Strategy for Change will take into account other initiative and funding streams such as the "myplace" initiative.
- 3.10 A copy of the Primary Strategy for Change is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

4. CONSULTATION

The Guidance produced by the DCSF on developing and agreeing a Primary Strategy for Change requires Local Authorities to consult on and gain wide agreement to the Strategy for Change. This consultation should include schools, potential promoters of new schools, sure start children's centres, parents, dioceses, primary care trusts and community health care providers and local early years child care providers.

The consultation draft document was prepared and circulated to primary head teachers, diocesan authorities members of the early years and extended schools teams.

Parents' views will be sought by making use of the parents' forum and the parents' forum website. We will make sure that parents of children with disabilities are included in this consultation by involving Amaze in the process.

A steering group was established to continue to develop the document as comments were fed back. The steering group comprises all relevant groups including head teachers.

The steering group met regularly between June and September 2008 to discuss the strategy and make suggestions on how it should be amended to meet the aspirations of all parties. They have played a significant part in developing the strategy for change.

Presentations were given at the Primary head teachers meeting on 6th May 2008. A drop in session was held at the Learning and Development Centre on 1st July 2008 to which all head teachers were invited.

To gain the views of pupils we will work appropriately with a group of pupils. We will ensure that the schools we work with represent a cross section of schools in the city to include Voluntary Aided schools, special schools and schools with nursery classes. We will work in partnership with the school councils when determining how to gain the views of pupils.

A summary of the consultation carried out is included at appendix 2.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The satisfactory preparation and acceptance of the Strategy for Change by the DCSF will enable the authority to draw down PCP funding over the next 14 years. Initial allocations of £3.075million and £5.453million have been made available to Brighton and Hove for the two financial years starting in 2009/10. The DCSF have indicated that the funding for this initial two year period will be in the form of capital grant SCE(C) rather than as supported borrowing SCE(R).

Indications suggest that we would then expect to receive approximately £2.25 - £2.75 million a year for the following 12 years – subject obviously to any future spending reviews. There has been no indication yet from the DCSF on whether this funding would be in the form of SCE(C) or SCE(R).

The Primary Strategy for Change will be funded by the Primary Capital Programme and from existing capital funding streams. Individual projects arising from it will be included in the relevant year's capital programme and subject to the usual approval and reporting processes.

Finance officer consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 04/08/08

5.2 Legal Implications:

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Individual scheme put forward under the Primary capital programme will be the subject of individual reports to cabinet and any legal implications will be highlighted at that time.

Lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 05/08/08

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The funding available under the PCP will enable the authority to provide services for children and young people within reach of every family.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

This funding would give the authority the opportunity to make a considerable element of our primary education stock more environmentally sustainable. Any new extensions over £500,000 in value would require a BREEAM assessment at an early stage. This will ensure good practice in environmental design and management is followed. All new extensions to Brighton and Hove Schools utilise, where ever possible, environmental and sustainable principles such as higher than minimum insulation levels, the use of efficient gas condensing boilers, under floor heating, solar shading and natural ventilation. Materials are sourced from sustainable sources where ever possible.

5.5 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The PCP is the best opportunity the authority has to make a step change in the provision of primary education and the condition of its primary stock. It is important that this opportunity is taken to ensure the continuing improvement in standards of education in the city.

There will need to be strong management of expectations within the programme as it will not be possible to undertake work at all schools within the city.

5.6 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The funding available under this programme will enable the authority to make significant improvements to the standard of primary education within the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

Not applicable.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The DCSF requires member support to the Primary Strategy for Change.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

Appendix 1 The Primary Strategy for Change

Appendix 2 Summary of consultation responses

Documents In Members' Rooms

Background Documents

