

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 2 September 2021

Report of the Head of Service - Asset Management

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Lytham; West Lancashire
North; Whitworth & Bacup;

Department for Education - Schools Rebuilding Programme 2021

Contact for further information:

Mel Ormesher, Tel: (01772) 536966, Head of Service - Asset Management,
mel.ormesher@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition.

Officers have worked with Department for Education to provide relevant information to inform the programme and welcome the opportunity to provide advice on the scope and scale of proposals in Lancashire. Officers also provide support to school leadership teams, where required, as end-users of the rebuilt premises. Officers will continue to support the Department for Education in their efforts to gather information and prepare for future waves of the programme.

The Department for Education provides a suite of documents which capture the high-level agreement of relevant stakeholders in relation to each specific school project. Officers are in negotiation with the Department for Education to ensure that the necessary protections and agreements are in place and reflect the scope of works to be carried out.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Endorse this approach and recognise the benefit that additional investment in Lancashire schools will deliver, as provided through the Department for Education School Rebuilding Programme (the Programme).
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Strategy and Performance and the Director of Corporate Services to consult with the Department for Education and other relevant stakeholders to support the Programme, and

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| <p>(iii) Authorise the Director of Strategy and Performance and the Director of Corporate Services (where existing delegations are insufficient) to negotiate and enter into such agreements as are deemed necessary to support effective Programme delivery and/or protect the interests of the county council.</p> |
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Background and Advice

There are currently 100 projects in the Department for Education School Rebuilding programme. Department for Education announced the first 50 projects during February 2021, and the second 50 in July 2021. The first 100 schools were prioritised either because:

- they have buildings of specific construction types that require replacement
- their buildings have the highest condition need identified in data collated and verified by the Department for Education

More information is available on the Department for Education website setting out how they prioritised schools in the published methodology notes for the [first 50 schools](#) and the [second set of 50 schools](#).

In Lancashire, three schools have been identified in the first 50 schools:

- Lytham St Anne's High School, Fylde
- Tarleton Academy, West Lancashire
- Whitworth Community High School, Rossendale

Two schools have been identified in the second set of 50 schools:

- All Saints' Roman Catholic High School, Rossendale
- Seven Stars Primary School, South Ribble

Each school is subject to different governance and property holding arrangements and so the implications for the county council vary in each case.

Lytham St Anne's High School is held by a Foundation Trust.

Tarleton Academy is wholly operated by Endeavour Multi-Academy Trust which as an early academy conversion holds the freehold to the site.

All Saints' RC High School is a voluntary academy where the county council holds the freehold to the playing fields.

Whitworth Community High School is maintained by the county council which holds the freehold to the site and ownership of the buildings. This is the same with Seven Stars Primary School. As such the implications for the county council are greatest in relation to these two projects.

The Department for Education project team have overall responsibility for determining the scope of the project. The team will work closely with the relevant Responsible Body, which may be the local authority, trust or voluntary aided body, dependent on the specific arrangements for each school, and school representatives throughout the process to update on progress and seek input at key stages in the project. In this regard officers have worked with Department for Education to provide relevant information to inform the programme and welcome the opportunity to provide advice on the scope and scale of proposals in Lancashire. Officers also provide support to school leadership teams, where required, as end-users of the rebuilt premises. Officers will continue to support Department for Education in their efforts to gather information and prepare for future waves of the programme.

Cabinet is asked to endorse this approach and recognise the benefit that such additional investment in Lancashire schools will deliver, as provided through the Department for Education School Rebuilding Programme. Existing delegations may be sufficient to manage decisions in support of the Programme. However, where such are not sufficient Cabinet is also asked to authorise the Director of Strategy and Performance and the Director of Corporate Services to negotiate and enter any agreements deemed necessary to support the effective delivery of the Programme and protect the interests of the county council.

Consultations

The Department for Education website sets out its approach to engaging with schools and stakeholders in the development of the Schools Rebuilding Programme. The Department for Education is consulting on its approach to prioritising schools for future waves of the rebuilding programme to which the county council will provide a response.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

The Schools Rebuilding Programme is funded, and programme managed centrally by the Department for Education. Where additional works are required by the school, trust or education authority, that will improve the premises but which fall outside of the scope of the Department for Education programme, it is possible for the relevant stakeholder to fund such works in order that they can be carried out by the Department for Education contractor thereby avoiding the need for separate contractors to be engaged. Such works must be fully scoped in advance of the contract between the supplier and the Department for Education being finalised and funding agreed by the relevant section 151 officer.

Where schools are benefitting from the programme, the Department provides them with a summary of the lifecycle cost estimates for the works to be delivered to enable

schools to consider the impact on their operating budget and plan for future property maintenance requirements.

The programme does not replace the duty of Responsible Bodies, such as the county council and governing bodies, who have a responsibility for the safety and maintenance of the buildings in their care. The county council continues to receive an annual allocation from the Department for Education school's condition-led grant, and individual schools continue to receive allocations within the devolved formula grant funding. The Department for Education provides advice to schools and responsible bodies to help manage their school buildings and land as set out in the Good Estate Management for Schools guidance.

Property Assets

As a maintained school, the county council owns the freehold to the school site and existing buildings that accommodate Whitworth High School. The Schools Rebuilding Programme project will retain the existing sports hall and provide a new main school building, before demolishing the old school building, making good, and setting out new external play areas. As such, the county council will benefit from substantial enhancement of the asset within the school property portfolio.

The scope of projects at schools identified in the second set of 50 have not yet been determined.

Legal

The Department for Education provides a suite of documents which capture the high-level agreement of relevant stakeholders in relation to each specific project. County council officers are in negotiation with the Department for Education to ensure that the necessary protections and agreements are in place and reflect the scope of works to be carried out and to protect the interests of the county council.

Procurement

The Department for Education will utilise one of its frameworks to deliver the building works. The county council is not a party to any resulting contract for works.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A