

Appendix 3 - School Capital Programme – Detailed Report

Summary

The council's school capital programme is developed following extensive pupil place planning to assess likely demand. The current programme aims to deliver sufficient pupil places for the 2015 and 2016 academic years.

This report provides an update highlighting projects managed by Thurrock Council and schemes managed externally which all form part of the school capital programme along with schemes managed, highlighting the considerable and continued progress that has been achieved since the last report to Council on 24th June 2015.

This report also provides an update of the provision of temporary accommodation to ensure sufficient pupil places for January 2016.

1. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that suitable and sufficient places are available in Thurrock for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one.

- 2.2 The demand for pupil places has increased significantly, over the last few months we have seen a large increase in 'in year' admissions from families moving into the Authority. In 2014/15, 698 children moved into Thurrock from elsewhere the UK, and 242 from outside of the UK. From the beginning of September 2015 to date, 304 children have moved into Thurrock and there have been 90 children move from outside of the UK. The demand does not appear to be slowing. To be in a position to accommodate this demand, we have built in an additional 7% of surplus places on top of the forecasts contained within the Pupil Place Planning document to allow us to be proactive rather than reactive to growing additional pressures mid academic year.

2. Knightsmead Site and Somers Heath School

- 3.1 The recommendation to transfer the Knightsmead site from Housing to Education was agreed at Council on 24th June 2015 as was the approval of a £2.5M budget for the re-commissioning of Knightsmead School and the provision of a link building to Somers Heath to expand the school to a 2 Form Entry, which will cater for an additional 210 pupils in this area.

Following the procurement process a local Architect has been appointed to lead on the Design of Knightsmead/Somers Heath. The project is currently at (Detailed Design) RIBA Stage 3.

- 3.2 An outline programme has been proposed by the architect, which will aim to deliver sufficient school places from September 2016.
- 3.3 The pre-planning application is to be submitted early November 2015 with determination likely to be January 2016.
- 3.4 Start on site will follow planning consent and discharge of conditions, as well as a tender period with the likelihood of an appointed contractor commencing onsite February/March 2016.

4. Update on previous School Capital Programme Scheme – Arthur Bugler Primary Amalgamation

- 4.1 The project to amalgamate Arthur Bugler Primary school by way of a link building completed on 19th October 2015 within the allocated budget.
- 4.2 The Mayor of Thurrock, Sue Gray attended the school on Wednesday 21st October to mark the official opening of the amalgamated school.
- 4.3 The total contract sum for this project was £750K; this sum included a school contribution of £100K.
- 4.4 The Local Authority has retained retention monies to be paid to the contractor on completion of the twelve month defect period.

5 Update on Revisions to Schemes in the 2014/15 School Capital Programme

5.1 Purfleet Expansion Scheme

- 5.1.1 Purfleet Primary Academy is currently in construction phase and will be expanded from a 2 FE to 3FE.
- 5.1.2 The project is being managed by REAch2 in conjunction with the Local Authority.
- 5.1.3 The project is currently 4 weeks behind programme. An extension of time request has been agreed, taking the completion date 7th March 2015, not 8th February 2015 as previously reported on 24th June 2015.

5.2 Tilbury Pioneer Academy

- 5.2.1 Further to the previous update to Council in June 2015, the Gateway Learning Community (GLC) Board are now looking to deliver a larger project which would see the school expand by a further 1 form of entry (an additional 210 pupils). The designing phase is therefore currently on hold until the GLC find

out if their bid to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for additional funding to deliver this scheme is successful, which is likely to be early 2016.

5.3 Mayflower Academy – Harris Federation

- 5.3.1 Temporary accommodation is now in place to accommodate 90 children in both Reception and Year 1. The new build is progressing well and is expected to be completed for September 2016.

6 Update to Schemes in the 2015/16 School Capital Programme (Woodside Academy and Thameside Primary Academy)

- 6.1 Following the request at Council meeting on 24th June 2015 for Cabinet Group Leaders to authorise/approve, in conjunction with the Director of Children's Service's the procurement of a Principal Contractor at the next milestone, the Strategic Leader and School Capital Planning Project Manager met with each of the relevant ward members to fully brief them on the individual projects prior to seeking their approval.

6.2 Woodside

The Multi Discipline Design Team was procured in line with the council's procurement rules, awarding the contract to Alderton Associates in May 2015.

- 6.2.1 The project is currently at RIBA stage 4 (Technical Design), moving into stage 5 (Construction). The project is currently out to tender, which will close on 9th November 2015. Three weeks have been set aside to carry out evaluation of tenders received.
- 6.2.2 The contract will be awarded to the winning bidder on 7th December with a start on site to take place December 2015/January 2016.

6.3 Thameside

The Multi Discipline Design Team was procured in line with the council's procurement rules, awarding the contract to Huggings Brommage and Ferguson in May 2015.

- 6.3.1 The project is currently at RIBA stage 4 (Technical Design). Documentation is being collated in readiness to go to tender.
- 6.3.2 The Planning application was submitted in September 2015. However, the planning determination has been moved to November 2015 due to awaiting a response from the Environment Agency in relation to a flood risk assessment.

7 Temporary Accommodation

- 7.1 Further to the previous Council update on 24 June 2015, completion of temporary accommodation to provide additional capacity from September 2015 has taken place at the following schools:

- a. Thameside Primary – one double and one single class base has been placed on the site until September 2016 when the school is expanded.
- b. Somers Heath – a double class base has been placed on the site until September 2016 when the school is expanded.
- c. Kenningtons Primary Academy – remodelling of a classroom to enable an additional intake of Reception pupils.
- d. Giffards Primary - remodelling of a classroom to enable an additional intake of Reception pupils.

Due to demand for pupil places in year 4 in the Ockendon and Aveley planning area, quotations for a temporary class base to be placed at Kenningtons Primary Academy are in the process of being sought.

All of the above will be funded through the schools Basic Need.

Often these can be overlooked however they are an important part of ensuring a school continues to operate successfully.

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