

Honiton Primary School Capital Build

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended Cabinet

- (a) approves the revised project to expand Honiton Primary school;**
- (b) notes the forward funding of additional primary places from the Basic Need capital allocation and supports the principle of securing retrospective developer contributions.**

1. Summary

The report details the capital funding proposals for the growth of Honiton Community Primary school to deliver a single-phase build to ensure the school can expand from a 420 place to a 630 place school to meet demographic and housing needs in the area.

2. Background

The Education Infrastructure Plan (EIP), approved by Cabinet on 16 October 2016 (PTE/16/47), includes a proposal to expand Honiton Primary school. The Planning, Transportation and Environment capital programme includes an allocation of £1.2m (CT16/12) to support a first phase of a project to expand the school by a total of 210 places. The entire project has recently been submitted for planning approval.

A new housing development of up to 300 dwellings has recently commenced in the town, Land West of Hayne Lane, Honiton which includes planning obligation to pay £2,840 per dwelling (index linked) towards enhancing primary education.

3. Proposal

The original intention to let a phased scheme was in part due to the uncertainties of the housing development in the town and the potential risk of not securing the section 106 developer contributions. A phased scheme however results in increased costs, additional disruption for the school and reduced flexibility in terms of managing growing pupil numbers. In addition, it has not been possible to develop a single phase within currently approved funds within the capital programme.

The total cost of the single-phase project is estimated at £2.7m of which £1.2m is already approved. Due to the greater certainty of securing developer contributions of up to £852,000 (index linked), it is now proposed to deliver the single-phase proposal, initially funded from £1.5m of unallocated basic need funding in the 2019-20 Planning, Transportation and Environment Basic Need Programme.

The proposal will future proof primary provision in the town for current and future housing growth within the town. Cabinet is asked to support the principle that retrospective developer contributions should be sought from future housing development in the area to recognise the forward funding of infrastructure.

4. Consultations

The EIP has been through a consultative process including Headteacher and Governor Associations, the Schools Forum and Cabinet.

There have been detailed conversations with the Local Learning Community and local schools on the proposal.

The local Member has been kept informed and updated on proposals.

5. Financial Considerations

Capital – the additional funding will need to be initially met from the Planning, Transportation and Environment Basic Need Programme (£1.5m) in advance of securing the proceeds from housing development.

Revenue – the Dedicated Schools Grant includes an agreed Growth Fund which sets out how growing schools will be supported.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The project will meet the latest building regulations in terms of sustainability and energy.

The proposals align to providing local provision for local children and therefore reduce the number and need for car journeys to school.

7. Equality Considerations

Where relevant to the decision, the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty requires decision makers to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Taking account of age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), gender and gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women/ new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage/civil partnership status in coming to a decision, a decision maker may also consider other relevant factors such as caring responsibilities, rural isolation or socio-economic disadvantage.

The proposal is included within the Education Infrastructure Plan 2016 - 2033 which included an Equality Impact Needs Assessment when approved by Cabinet in October 2016 which is available at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/the-education-infrastructure-plan-2016-2033-revised/>

8. Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the proposals have been considered.

The project requires a planning approval.

A statutory consultation will be required for when the school formally expands from 420 to 630.

9. Risk Management Considerations

These proposals have been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

The proposal is in part forward funding future section 106 contributions and there is a risk that these may not be secured.

As highlighted in section 8, proposals are subject to planning and further consultation however timescales are such that the capital investment needs to proceed in advance of these.

10. Public Health Impact

The proposals will take into account the requirements and health and wellbeing of local communities.

11. Options/Alternatives

The development of this proposal has considered a number of options including doing nothing, which would result in larger number of learners having to be transported to schools outside of the town.

A potential new free school proposal was considered however there is currently no suitable land secured and the additional of a new primary would impact on ensuring there is a sustainable pattern of provision across the town and wider Local Learning Community, which includes a number of small rural schools.

12. Conclusion

The investment proposal in this paper will support Devon County Council to meet their statutory responsibilities as well as providing local schools for local children.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: Feniton & Honiton

Cabinet Member for Resources Management: Councillor Stuart Barker

Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services:
Councillor Roger Croad

Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools: Councillor James McInnes

*Chief Officer for Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity:
Dr Virginia Pearson*

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
1. Education Infrastructure Plan: 2016 – 2033 Cabinet report PTE/16/47, Plan and Minute*86	16 October 2016	http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=167&Ver=4
2. Education Infrastructure Plan 2016 - 2033 Equality Impact Needs Assessment	August 2016	https://new.devon.gov.uk/impact/the-education-infrastructure-plan-2016-2033-revised/

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