

**To all Headteachers and
Chairs of Governors**

Your ref:

Our ref: EG/RP

Date: 24 March 2010

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

2010/11 School Capital Programme

I am writing to provide you with an update on the 2010/11 School Capital Programme and to communicate the detail of two capital programmes to you. These are New Deals for Schools (NDS) Modernisation and Asbestos/Health and Safety.

On the 25th February 2010 Central Bedfordshire Council approved its Capital Programme for 2010/11. Despite a challenging economic climate this means that Central Bedfordshire's schools are benefitting collectively from a significant level of capital investment funded from a number of sources including Central Bedfordshire's capital resources, developer contributions (often referred to as section 106), Department for Education (DfE) targeted grants, Primary Capital Programme and Devolved Formula Capital.

Projects and rolling programmes that have commenced or are now approved to commence include:

- Planned asbestos removal / health and safety programme
- New Deal for Schools (NDS) Modernisation
- Schools Access Initiative
- Temporary accommodation
- Tithe Farm Lower School refurbishment
- Arnold Middle School Phase 3
- Improvements to school kitchens and dining rooms
- Teaching/learning practical food at Parkfields and Gilbert Inglefield Middle schools
- Etonbury Middle additional capacity
- Roecroft Lower School relocation
- Holmemead Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Unit

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- All Saints Academy
- Bedfordshire East Schools Trust Co-location project

Unfortunately, due to the size of the legacy capital programme inherited by Central Bedfordshire, and the Council's review of its own financial position, a process of evaluation and subsequent prioritisation has caused delay to a number of potential projects.

These include:

- Oak Bank sports hall
- Improvements to teaching areas at Oak Bank special school
- Campton Lower School replace undersized hall and replacement of temporary units
- Ridgmont Lower replacement of temporary unit
- Middle School sports hall programme
- Programme to avoid the use of temporary accommodation
- Alameda Middle School phase 3
- Greenfield Lower replacement school
- Redborne Upper School design block phase 2

These projects will be subject to further evaluation as part of the review of the Council's future capital programme which is due to commence in the next two months. This review is designed to ensure that the programme is affordable and aligned to the Council's priorities. The development of a School Asset Management Plan which contains data on the relative condition, suitability and sufficiency of each school will inform future evaluations and ensure that the process of targeting capital investment is totally transparent.

The draft School Asset Management Plan will be presented to School Forum in June 2010 and the Forum will play an active role in the prioritisation of capital investment in future years in addition to helping to coordinate the reduction of the school carbon footprint which will be a challenge for us all over the coming months and years to ensure that valuable finance is focussed on teaching and learning, rather than heating inefficient buildings.

NDS Modernisation Programme

You will be aware that condition surveys have been undertaken at Central Bedfordshire schools during the past year. The results of those surveys were compiled and analysed in order to rank the reported defects in order of severity of impact upon the delivery of the curriculum at each school.

The condition survey results indicated that a spend in excess of thirteen million pounds was required during the next twelve months: this is against a budget provision of less than three million pounds for this year. The requirement for year two is almost eighteen million pounds and we await notification from the Department for Education on the likely scale of future government modernisation grant.

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For that reason we have focussed the resulting programme on the absolute essentials of boilers, related pipework, windows, doors, roofing, electrical distribution and hot water systems. In view of this the following standalone projects were removed from the list of potential work:

- Projects that fell below £10,000, being Central Bedfordshire Council's de minimus level for capital expenditure.
- Asbestos remediation works (to be dealt with under the Asbestos removal programme explained below).
- Upgrades and improvements to Fire Detection systems and emergency lighting (to be dealt with under the Health and Safety programme explained below).

Schools that appear as named improvement schemes in the Central Bedfordshire Council capital programme and are subject to major refurbishment or capital development, i.e. Etonbury Middle School and Tithe Farm Lower School, will have their condition results considered by Project Officers to realign the condition survey demands against work that is already planned

Schools in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area are currently subject of a review following the Council's approval of its Education Vision in March 2010. The review will consider how the organisation of schools can best meet the goals and aspirations set out in that vision. Until that review has concluded, a limited modernisation capital programme will be planned for schools within that geographical area.

This will be published shortly to schools in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area through a separate risk assessed programme that will aim at addressing urgent condition issues that could impact upon the continuing operation of those schools while the review is underway.

Redborne Upper School is identified as having a number of condition issues that could impact upon the future use of the school buildings unless they are addressed within the coming year. We have commissioned Mouchel to undertake a separate review of the buildings and ear-marked funding in order to resolve these issues over an extended period.

Stratton Upper School will also be subject to a separate review to develop a programme of improvements over an extended period.

All of the prioritised projects will be approved subject to schools agreement to their contribution to the cost of works, this being the first £10k of capital plus 50% of the project cost above £10k up to a maximum of one half of the school's annual devolved formula capital (DFC) allocation.

Colleagues from the Council's Property Services Team will contact you shortly to seek your agreement to the level of contribution required.

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The attached programme sets out the confirmed projects that will need to be commissioned over the next two weeks in order for the works to be undertaken during the summer holiday period.

A separate budgetary provision has been established for any emergency repairs that may occur during the year.

Asbestos

Colleagues in the Council's Risk Management Team have worked closely with Mouchel to scope a programme of asbestos removal where it poses an unacceptable risk to leave in situ. The Council will not require a contribution from schools to the cost of planned asbestos removal. Those schools contained within this programme will be contacted shortly

Health and Safety

The focus of our health and safety programme for 2010/11 is in improving fire detection and alarm systems. Colleagues in the Council's Risk Management Team have worked closely with the Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service to devise a risk assessment methodology based on the School Crime and Arson Risk assessment (SCARE). The resulting programme is attached and illustrates those schools where the level of risk is highest and therefore where works are most urgently required to improve the existing systems.

Schools listed as priorities will be required to contribute to the cost of works as set out above.

However, where a school appears in both the Health and Safety programme and the NDS Modernisation programme, your contribution will be based upon the total value of works.

Colleagues' from the Council's Property Services Team will contact you shortly to seek your agreement to the level of contribution required.

Voluntary Aided schools, whose maintenance is addressed in partnership with the Diocesan bodies and a separate funding stream of Locally Controlled Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP), were removed from the NDS Modernisation Programme, Asbestos and Health and Safety Programme. Officers will work closely with these schools to focus their capital where required.

If your school does not appear on the attached spreadsheets and you know that there is an urgent repair, maintenance or health and safety issue that needs to be addressed I would urge you to consider the prioritisation of your devolved formula capital.

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We look forward to your continued assistance and co-operation in delivering this programme but if you have any queries regarding this please do not hesitate to contact either;

Rob Parsons, Head of School Organisation and Capital Planning
Email rob.parsons@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone 0300 300 5572

Or

Tim Chaple, Head of Capital Development
Email tim.chaple@centralbedfordshirecouncil.gov.uk
Telephone 01234 276642

Yours sincerely,

Edwina Grant
Director of Childrens Services

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NDS Modernisation Programme 2010.2011

Site/Block Title	Feature Name	Groups	Total Cost Including Fees
Alameda Middle Block 4	heating distribution : pipework		£ 20,286.18
Aspley Guise Lwr Main B11	flat roof covering	}	£ 91,439.97
Aspley Guise Lwr Temp B12	flat roof covering		
Campton Lower Temp B11	external wall linings/finishes		£ 55,125.50
Cranfield Lower Block 1	windows: single glazed	}	
Cranfield Lower Block 1	windows: single glazed		
Cranfield Lower Block 2	windows: single glazed		
Cranfield Lower Block 2	windows: single glazed		
Fulbrook Main Block	distribution boards	}	
Fulbrook Main Block	main switchgear		
Fulbrook Main Block	service head amps		
Greenleas Lwr/Nurs B11	flat roof rooflight		£ 48,179.69
Leedon Lower Main Block 1	distribution boards		£ 11,094.01
Leighton Middle Block 11	external wall linings/finishes	}	
Leighton Middle Block 11	external wall structure		
Leighton Middle Block 5	external wall linings/finishes		
Leighton Middle Block 5	external wall structure		
Leighton Middle Block 3	external wall: cladding		
Leighton Middle Block 8	external wall structure		
Leighton Middle Block 3	external doors: single leaf		
Leighton Middle Block 3	windows: single glazed		
Leighton Middle Block 5	windows: single glazed		
Leighton Middle Block 6	external doors: double doors		
Leighton Middle Block 6	external doors: double doors		
Leighton Middle Block 6	Lintel Repair		£ 480,041.85
Leighton Middle Block 6	windows: single glazed		
Leighton Middle Block 8	external doors: double doors		
Leighton Middle Block 8	windows: single glazed		
Linslade Lower Blk 1	external doors: double doors	}	£ 115,456.66
Linslade Lower Blk 1	windows: single glazed		
Linslade Lower Blk 1	flat roof covering	}	£ 140,769.30
Linslade Lower Blk 3	pitched roof covering		
Parkfields Middle Sports Hall	roof		£ 112,301.00
Ramsey Manor Lwr Block 1	external doors: leaf and a half	}	
Ramsey Manor Lwr Block 1	external doors: single leaf		
Ramsey Manor Lwr Block 1	windows: single glazed		
Russell Lwr School Blk 1	hot water system		£ 17,750.41
Sandy Place Middle Blk 1	boiler		£ 101,430.92
Southcott Lwr Main Blk 1	flat roof covering		£ 72,269.53
St Swithuns Lower Block 1	boiler		£ 45,643.91
St Swithuns Lower Block 1	windows: single glazed		£ 14,707.48
Stanbridge Lwr School B11	heating distribution : pipework		£ 50,715.46
Templefield Lower Blk1	windows: single glazed		£ 21,300.49
The Firs Lwr School Main Blk 1	windows: single glazed		£ 21,300.49
Westoning Lwr Block 3	flat roof covering	}	£ 21,300.49
Westoning Lwr Block 3	flat roof rooflight		
Redborne and Stratton Upper School Sites	All		£ 600,000.00
DHR - All review schools	All		£ 660,000.00
			<u>£ 3,019,503.31</u>

Schools Crime Arson Risk Assessment 2010/11

Establishment	Total approx costings
Burgoyne Middle School	£15,000
Caddington Village School	£70,000 - £80,000 ** see note below
Leighton Middle School	£48,000
Mary Bassett	** see note below
Mill Vale Middle	£15,000
Parkfields Middle	£40,000
Shillington Lower	£11,000

** further investigation work is being undertaken