

DETAILED BUSINESS CASE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

All Project Managers need to complete this Detailed Business Case in order for schemes approved in the Council's Capital Programme to proceed.

PROJECT TITLE Fairfield Park Lower School Extensions and Alterations

LOCATION OF PROJECT Fairfield Park Lower School

PROJECT MANAGER School Organisation and Capital Planning

START DATE: 2011

FINISH DATE: 2013

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Briefly explain what the project is:

The need for the expansion of Fairfield Park Lower is a result of demographic growth within the school's existing catchment area.

The Council is responsible for the commissioning of new school places, for commissioning early feasibility studies where required and for evaluating options for new provision. The Council must adhere to the legal processes set out in regulation and statutory guidance where the Local Authority is decision maker.

Pupil numbers generated from within this new development are significantly higher than those originally forecast by Bedfordshire County Council when the school was first proposed and constructed. Currently the school is recognised as a 1FE (150 place) lower school with an admission number of 30.

In September 2011, 54 pupils were admitted into the school from within the school's area taking the overall number on roll in the main school to 178. In order to accommodate the increase in numbers a temporary classroom was funded from the Council's temporary classroom programme and the Council continues to work with the school to provide further interim arrangements for September 2012.

Although the new development is coming to an end, Area Health Authority pre-school data for the area supports the current trend in numbers with anticipated future requirements forecast to be approximately twice the school's current capacity, i.e. an average of approximately 60 pupils per year group. Therefore, it is recommended that the school be permanently expanded to provide an enlarged school of 2FE (300 places) with an increase in admission number to 60.

This proposal has been developed in consultation with the school's Governing Body who are supportive.

BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES

Explain how this scheme will support the Council / Services priorities:

This project will ensure the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places and also meets the legal requirements placed on the Council by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 regarding proposals to expand maintained schools.

The school will be increased to 2 Form Entry 300 Places, with accommodation conforming to but not exceeding the model accommodation schedule for this size of school (as submitted by School Organisation and Capital Planning). This will enable the larger school to offer a broad and balanced curriculum.

A formal Post Project Evaluation will be undertaken on completion of the project.

OPTIONS

Explain what other options were considered, and why the chosen option is preferred:

A feasibility study has been carried out on this school in order to be satisfied that the increase in numbers can be accommodated within the existing school site and the costs from the study included in the figures below. Nevertheless, and in order to ensure that the schemes can be ready for September 2013, further more detailed design work has been commissioned to progress to the next Royal Institute of Building Architects (RIBA) work stage of development. This was set out in the report to Executive on 27 March 2012 and approved by the Deputy Director (Childrens Services) following consultation with the Executive Member

IMPLICATIONS OF NOT PROCEEDING

What would be the effect of not doing this scheme?

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on Councils to secure sufficient and suitable school places to provide for 5 – 16 year old statutory aged children in its area. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Councils a strategic role as commissioners, but not providers, of school places to promote parental choice, diversity, high standards, the fulfilment of every child's educational potential and fair access to educational opportunity.

The proposal to commission new school places and to allocate related capital investment outlined in this report implements the identified need to manage demographic growth in the previously published school organisation plan and mitigates the risk on the Council of failing in its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

How and on what timescales will the projected costs be recouped as savings or benefits?

Consideration has been given to whether the provision of places elsewhere may be feasible. However, this is the only school serving the locality and there is a need to ensure sufficient places at a local school.

RISKS

List the likely risks of the scheme and an indication of the probability and impact of each risk. Risks could include reputational, financial, political, or delivery risks.

The commissioning of this project will include risk assessment and management criteria to ensure these are clear to decision makers. Contract and construction risks will be overseen through the project management of the project.

However, in order to ensure that the main accommodation works can begin on site in early 2013 and to avoid the need for further temporary accommodation, an essential archaeological excavation has been undertaken and a separate enabling works package has been let under an approved "SCAPE" pilot framework to commence during the summer 2012 school holiday period. The costs of these are included below. The costs of the archaeological works have led to an increase in the overall budget as a consequence of poor ground conditions and the need to remove contaminated soil found on site which was not previously allowed for within the costs for these works.

See formal Risk Register for the project for details.

OTHER COMMENTS

N/A

CAPITAL COST OF PROJECT

List here the gross costs, updated from Outline Business Case using detailed estimates or tender prices

	* Est type - D	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Land Acquisition					
Building Acquisition					
Construction/ Conversion, incl Archaeological works	2,653,583		655,240	1,998,343	
Professional Fees	372,736	21,877	307,329	43,530	
Vehicles					
Plant & Equipment					
Furniture	186,480		16,000	170,480	
IT Hardware					
Software & Licences					
Capital Grant to 3 rd Parties					
Credit Arrangement (leases)					
TOTAL COST	3,212,799	21,877	978,569	2,212,353	

*D = Detailed estimate, T = Tender price.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

List here the funding sources, updated from Outline Business Case

	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Specific Government Grant - Basic Need	21,877	978,569	2,211,406	
Developers Contribution			947	
Lottery / Heritage				
Other sources (specify)				
EXTERNAL FUNDING	21,877	978,569	2,212,353	
Direct Revenue Financing				
Capital Receipts				
Borrowing *				
CENTRAL BEDS FUNDING				
TOTAL FUNDING	21,877	978,569	2,212,353	

* Borrowing will be the balance of funding required to fund the project

** In the case of non-cash contributions (e.g. land donation), please show a cash equivalent figure (estimate) in the funding table. Also gross up the capital costs table against the appropriate line (i.e. as if the donation had to be purchased) and provide a brief note in 'Other Comments'.

REVENUE IMPACT OF PROJECT

List here the incremental year-on-year impact on the revenue budget

TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Staffing costs					
Other running costs					
Income / savings					
Net impact to CBC (excl schools)					
Net impact to schools					

COMMENTARY ON REVENUE IMPACT

The day to day running costs of school provision is met through revenue funding which is made available to each school as part of the dedicated schools grant and is based primarily on the numbers of pupils attending, which will increase accordingly in an expanded school.

DETAIL SCHEDULE OF WORK

Outline key works undertaken in the delivery of the scheme.

Design and construction as per the Scope and Feasibility Study signed off by all parties on 18/01/2012 and Stage D sign off 1 May 2012.

KEY MILESTONES (DATES)

<i>Feasibility Study</i>	January 2012
<i>Stage D submission</i>	May 2012
<i>Stage E submission</i>	TBC
<i>Out to Tender</i>	TBC
<i>Tender Return</i>	TBC
<i>Client approval</i>	TBC
<i>Contractor start on site</i>	TBC
<i>Completion on site</i>	November 2013
<i>Project review</i>	November 2014
<i>End of defects period</i>	November 2014
<i>Project close</i>	November 2014

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please give the name of officer who should be contacted for further information on this capital bid.

Name: Keith Armstead

Ext: 75574

APPROVAL

I approve the submission of this Detailed Business Case:

Name and signature as appropriate in line with Constitution

Director:

Date:

Portfolio holder:

Date:

Chief Finance Officer:

Date:

Portfolio holder for Finance People & Governance:

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Date: