

AGENDA ITEM

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 2nd JUNE 2007

SUBJECT: PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME - PRIMARY STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & LEARNING

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	STAFFING	✓
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EQUALITIES	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	✓
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FINANCIAL	✓	RISKS	✓
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OTHER

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED ✓ **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED**

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED ✓ **OTHER**

WARDS AFFECTED:ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR KHAN

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Executive is recommended to:-

- (i) approve Luton's draft Primary Strategy for Change document as attached as Appendix A;**
- (ii) delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Children and Learning) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services) to finalise agreement of the Primary Strategy for Change following widespread consultation and prior to its submission to DCSF by 16th June 2008.**

REPORT

Background

2. The Council is progressing its inclusion within the national PCP programme in order to access and secure in excess of £50m public capital funding to transform the primary educational estate and learning outcomes across the Borough.
3. The Council is required to submit a Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) that demonstrates the approach to be taken in:
 - creating primary schools that are equipped for 21st century teaching and learning,
 - developing primary schools that are at the heart of their local communities with children's services within the reach of every family, and
 - identifying initial capital investment priorities.
4. The PSfC has to be submitted by 16th June 2008 and DCSF will inform the Council of the outcome in September 2008 by reference to one of three categories:
 - approved,
 - approved with conditions, and
 - not approved.
5. PCP will be delivered by our Private Sector Partner (PSP) once the LEP is established in May 2009. Assuming our PSfC document is approved, PCP capital funding will be available from April 2009 onwards.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Delivery of PCP will run alongside that of BSF investment and will require the Council to procure a private sector partner (PSP), establish a Local Education Partnership (LEP) through a joint venture company arrangement and to enter into a 10-15 year contractual agreement. The legal implications have been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 15th May 2008.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7. DCSF expects authorities to give a high priority to projects requiring rebuilding (i.e. within the first five years of the programme) and, where possible, to link these with BSF PFI projects where timescale allows. Where this is the case, managed services will be linked to a 25-30 year contract period and delivered by a PFI SPV. For all other primary projects funded by Design & Build, the sourcing of managed services from the LEP will be a local decision. Approved by the Children & Learning HR Manager 15th May 2008.

EQUALITIES, INCLUSION & COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8. Access to high-quality education buildings and facilities should be available to all children and young people, irrespective of their place of residence. PCP funding is being targeted at those schools which have significant AMP, deprivation and over-subscription issues with phasing determined by performance measures (please refer to Appendices B and C for more detailed information). This will ensure that PCP will have the maximum impact in the initial years of the 14 year programme. Approved by the Children & Learning Equalities Officer on the 15th May 2008.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

9. Investment in half of all Luton primary schools should reduce the extent to which parental preference for a school place is influenced by the quality of buildings or facilities on offer in each school. Attendance at local schools minimises the need to travel, thereby reducing traffic congestion and making journeys to school safer for all.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Although PCP funding will be provided by the Government, unlike BSF, it will be insufficient to cover the cost of refurbishing all primary schools. Thus, there is an expectation that in its planning, the Authority will need to address the needs of all schools, whether or not qualifying for PCP investment, by maximising capital investment and the pooling of relevant funding streams as follows:
 - identify those schools qualifying for PCP investment, linking this with other funding streams as appropriate,
 - utilise the effective use of other DCSF funding streams such as Modernisation, Schools Access Initiative, Basic Need and Targeted Capital Funding)
 - support the investment of LCVAP funding in denominational schools
 - encourage schools to target DFC funding to support relevant capital projects. These financial implications have been agreed by the Finance Manager (Children & Learning) on 16th May 2008.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

11. The BSF Project Board (Strategic Partnering Board after Financial Close) will be overseeing the delivery of PCP alongside BSF projects.

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED

12. The PCP has been developed in consultation with the BSF Commission that includes cross-party and cross-agency representation.

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

13. All key stakeholders are being asked to comment on the Draft Primary Strategy for Change by 11th June 2008 to enable the document to be revised prior to submission to DCSF on 16th June 2008.

OPTIONS

14. Failure to submit Luton's Primary Strategy for Change by 16th June 2008 will delay Luton's involvement in the 14 year PCP programme commencing April 2009 onwards.

APPENDICES

15. The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A – Draft Primary Strategy for Change document (to follow)
Appendix B – PCP investment priorities
Appendix C – PCP investment criteria

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. Background information nationally on PCP can be found at:
www.teachernet.gov.uk and by searching for 'primary capital programme' OR by typing in 'primary capital programme' into a relevant search engine.