

From: **Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education**

To: **Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Subject: **Proposed forecast expenditure of projects exceeding £1m within the Annual Planned Enhancement and Modernisation Programme.**

Decision Number: **22/00067**

Key decision:

- *It affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions, &;*
- *It involves expenditure or savings of maximum £1m*

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 19 July 2022

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Gary Cooke – Maidstone South East
David Beaney – Dover West
James McInroy – Tunbridge Wells West
Alan Marsh - Herne Village & Sturry

Summary: Proposed forecast expenditure of projects exceeding £1m within the Annual Planned Enhancement and Modernisation Programme

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree to

- Authorise the allocation of £5.409m from the from the Children Young People and Education Services Capital Budget to deliver the Planned Maintenance and Modernisation schemes at; Leeds and Broomfield CoE Primary School, Lydden Primary School, Bidborough CoE Primary School and Herne Infants School.
- Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.

1. Introduction

1.1 Kent County Council (KCC), as the Local Authority, is responsible for the maintenance of Community and Voluntary Controlled school buildings in Kent. This responsibility is taken seriously, with continuous maintenance and modernisation programmes in place to ensure that the school estate is fit for purpose. Included within these programmes are routine building checks that identify possible future maintenance issues with accommodation.

1.2 Following the condition survey and referrals, the below schemes have been identified for replacement due to deterioration and end of economic life.

2. Body of the report

2.1 Leeds and Broomfield Primary School

Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School is a 0.75FE school within the village of Leeds, Maidstone. The main school building was built over 100 years ago and needs modernising, the main concerns being the lack of toilets for the number of children / staff and the dilapidated two classroom mobile block at the rear of the school. A dilapidation survey of the mobile block was carried on 27th January 2021 which highlighted the extremely poor conditions of the existing mobiles with issues including but not limited to the poor condition both internally and externally, poor / incorrect foundations, roofing issues, mould and mildew and outdated heating. As the existing school WC provision does not meet the guideline ratio for a school of this size, the Stage 2 proposal allows for the inclusion of additional WCs to address the shortfall. The building does not meet modern standards and is undersized in accordance with current BB103 school area guidelines. The proposals confirm that a modular solution can be provided in place of the existing mobiles.

2.2 Lydden Primary School

New School Hall. Lydden Community Primary School is a small primary school in Dover District with a PAN of 12. The building is damp, mouldy, and decaying. There are breaches to the floor and wall junction allowing insect, rodent and vegetation to enter the building. There is evidence of dry rot. The roof covering of single ply felt, showed poor workmanship and open laps, allowing water ingress. The building had no insulation.

The building is at the end of its life span and even with significant remedial works the usable life of the building is limited. The school hall is also under size. The building has had several repairs over time but is in a deteriorating condition and, even with significant remedial works, the life span is limited. The building does not meet modern standards and is undersized in accordance with current BB103 school area guidelines.

The proposed design has received planning approval (KCC/DO/0117/2021) and provides a fit for purpose building which meets BB103 and the schools' specific requirements. It includes a hall, servery, plant room and ancillary spaces. The new building will be linked to the main school via corridor which includes an external entrance, small office, and accessible WC, to supplement the schools existing space and allow for more flexible use of the hall for school and community events. The proposal incorporates a small car park to alleviate on street parking. This will be constructed over the base formed by the contractor's compound and access route as a large portion of the work will already be complete.

Lydden is part of the Whitfield and Dover North planning group, where significant growth is expected due to the Whitfield Urban Expansion (5,750 new homes). The addition of an appropriately sized school hall, the accessible toilet and additional office could support a small expansion of the school in the future

2.3 Bidborough CoE Primary School

Replacement modular unit – 2 classrooms. Current block placed on site in 1992 but wasn't new when installed. Construction wooden tongue and groove cladding with felt roof doesn't meet today's insulation requirements. Remedial works carried out August '21, no option for further repair has been recommended. Structural survey found significant wet rot and recommended full replacement. This is likely to require a bespoke solution rather than a built off site standard unit due to location (narrow village access lanes with school situated on steep hill. The current block is enclosed on 3 sides by other buildings and there is no option for relocation due to the confined site).

2.4 Herne Infants School

Roof overlay project - built circa 2000 the roof has had issues for over 5 years and leaks are now widespread and worsening. Leaks are causing disruption to school and damaging internal fabric of the building. Countless remedial repairs have been carried out including application of liquid waterproofing to joints and sealing rooflights, but no repair has been successful, and a full roof overlay system is now recommended in order to keep school operational and prevent damage to roof structure.

3. Alternative options

3.1 The following options were considered by the Senior Management Team:

Option 1 – Do nothing

This would result in partial school closure due to the areas identified within each school not meeting the safe, warm, and dry criteria and/or the need to bring in costly temporary accommodation to ensure that schools can continue to operate rather than risk closure.

Option 2 – Localised Repairs

Areas described are at the end of their economic life, localised repairs could be feasible however, as they may only last a short while, this option would still risk school closure. This would result in additional costs and abortive works. This would be a short-term measure and would result in option 3 proceeding in later years at higher cost.

Option 3 – Proceed with replacements

This would mitigate school closure risks and provide safe teaching environments and improvement to the fabric of the schools. This a long-term measure.

After reviewing the estimated costs, potential risk elements and the key advantages/disadvantages of each option it was agreed that the replacement schemes were the most appropriate solutions.

4. Financial implications

4.1 Feasibility studies have been carried out which estimate the cost of delivery to be £4.590m in total; £1.045m for Leeds and Broomfield, £1.969m for Lydden Primary School, £1.012m for Bidborough CoE Primary School and £1,023m for Herne Infants.

The funds will come from the CYPE Annual Planned Enhancement Programme and Modernisation Programmes for April 22-23.

5. Equalities implications

Without these works there is a risk of the council overlooking their required duties to ensure all children receive an education in a safe warm and dry environment.

6. Governance

- 6.1 The proposed decision will authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter variations as envisaged under the contracts. It will also authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 There is no requirement to undertake formal statutory consultation processes, as the capacities and Published Admission numbers of the schools will remain the same. The governing bodies of the schools have been kept informed of the plans. Information will be provided to parents/carers before and during the planned works.

8. Views

- 8.1 The View of the Area Education Officers
The Area Education Officers for each of the four schemes fully support these proposals as they deliver overall cost-effective solutions and ensure that the school buildings remain fit for purpose in the short and long-term.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 This report sets out the case for releasing the capital funding required for the roof, hall and mobile building replacements at Leeds and Broomfield CoE Primary School, Lydden Primary School, Bidborough CoE Primary School and Herne Infants School. This is proactive work to mitigate against potential school closure and ensures KCC fulfils its duty to provide school places under the safe, warm, and dry criteria. The replacement option chosen offers appropriate cost effectiveness and relieves the Local Authority from on-going maintenance commitments.

10.Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree to

- a) Authorise the allocation of £5.049m from the from the Children Young People and Education Services Capital Budget to deliver the Planned Maintenance and Modernisation schemes at; Leeds and Broomfield CoE Primary School, Lydden Primary School, Bidborough CoE Primary School and Herne Infants School.
- b) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.

11. Contact details

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