

EXECUTIVE**On 13 JUNE**Report Title: **DfES – Primary Capital Programme**Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**Report of: **Sharon Shoesmith – Director, The Children’s Service**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Key****1. Purpose**

1.1 To seek member approval to submit an expression of interest in the Primary Schools Capital Programme

2. Introduction by Executive Member

2.1 The Haringey primary school estate needs additional capital investment. The council should express an interest in this pilot scheme.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Haringey submits an expression of interest for Haringey to be considered as a pilot authority.

3.2 That a further report is brought back for members’ consideration once further details emerge as to the nature of the pilot, in particular the financial details of the programme.

Report Authorised by:

**Sharon Shoesmith
Director
The Children’s Service**

Contact Officers: **Ian Bailey – Deputy Director, Business Support & Development
Brendan Wells – Head of Property & Contracts**

4. Executive Summary

4.1 This report seeks members' approval for the Children's Service to submit an expression of interest to the DfES for Haringey to be considered as a pilot authority under the new Primary Schools Capital Programme.

5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

5.1 N/A

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme

7. Background

7.1 In March 2006, the DfES commenced a consultation process on investment in primary schools across the country. The Department produced a document to support this process entitled:

"Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme – Building Primary Schools at the Heart of the Community".

7.2 In this document, the DfES has proposed establishing a number of pilot projects around the country. They have invited expressions of interest from local authorities.

7.3 The purpose of the pilot is stated as:

To develop and define best practice for the programme, to develop the underpinning national and local processes needed to deliver results, and to support and build the capacity of other authorities. For example:

- Responding to parental demand, expanding popular schools, solutions to school failure, federations, trusts and networks of schools;
- Every child matters, using children's trust approach, and extended services;
- Design and procurement issues, e.g. exemplar designs, standardisation, off-site construction, value for money procurement methods, sustainability, use of BB99;
- Involving partners, schools, pupils and communities, and building skills and capacity into the system;
- Joining up planning, funding and monitoring at local and national level across children's and other services.

7.4 There will be around 25 pilots nationally: 2 to 3 per region; with a mix of types and sizes of authority across the country. Funding will be allocated on a formula basis, related to pupil numbers and levels of deprivation.

7.5 Members will be aware of the significant investment which has been attracted to Haringey in the secondary sector through the BSF initiative. Members will also be aware of the investment programme which has commenced in the early years

setting as part of the Sure Start / Children Centre programme. The major area where investment is required is the primary estate.

7.6 There is a considerable amount of investment required in the primary estate in Haringey. In addition to the need to bring our schools up to a 21st century learning environment standard, we have a significant amount of backlog building repairs to address. These include quite basic but essential building fabric components including roofs, windows, boilers, rewiring etc.

7.7 To meet these needs we should submit an expression of interest to the DfES to be considered as a pilot authority. The expression has to be made by 14 June 2006.

7.8 Following this initial expression of interest, a more in-depth evaluation of the benefits to Haringey will be carried out, in the light of further details emerging on the operation of the pilot.

8. Consultation

8.1 The detailed bid will be developed in consultation with Haringey primary schools and their communities.

9. Summary and Conclusions

9.1 Additional investment in the primary estate is needed and an expression of interest should be supported.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That Haringey submits an expression of interest for Haringey to be considered as a pilot authority

10.2 That a further report is brought back for members' consideration once further details emerge as to the nature of the pilot, in particular the financial details of the programme.

11. Comments of the Director of Finance

11.1 There is opportunity to use DfES investment to improve our primary schools and primary-age special schools without, on the face of it, recourse to council resources. There is a possible risk, however, of not being able to deliver a balanced budget when the amount of funding available through the pilot is compared against potential expenditure.

11.2 As with BSF, there are risks on funding sources through possible changes to the grant system and this will need to be considered properly when the financial appraisal is undertaken for the project.

11.3 Given the enormous backlog of repairs, demand for places, and the need to reduce class sizes, a pilot programme of this nature should relieve the council of some budget pressures, while allowing better use of scarce resources.

11.4 In view of the financial and non-financial benefits that would be derived from a pilot programme of this nature, the Director of Finance supports an expression of interest in this scheme.

12. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

12.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The consultation currently being undertaken by the DfES on the Primary Capital Programme falls generally within the national strategies adopted for primary education. The consultation paper, for which responses are invited by 14 June 2006, invites expressions of interest from authorities to establish regional pilot schemes to run from 2006 to 2008/9. Section 13A of the Education Act 1996 provides that an Authority is under a duty to ensure so, far as it is able to, that its functions relating to the provision of education under the Act are exercised with a view to promoting high standards. Participation in the first stage of this programme will aid the Authority in meeting this duty

13. Equalities Implications

13.1 The children of Haringey deserve the best possible start to life. There is a relationship between the condition of school buildings and the performance of pupils. A number of Haringey schools are in need of significant investment – this applies to schools in the west and east of the borough. If Haringey were to succeed in achieving pilot status under this initiative this could continue to improve the life chances of children in Haringey – in addition to other initiatives already underway (e.g. Sure Start / Children's Centres).

14. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

14.1 None