

## CABINET

7 March 2023

### SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	Sustainable Lives	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/091222	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor David Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services	
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the progress of the Schools Capital Programme.

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is a key milestone action relating to the Schools Capital Programme, to enable the local authority to meet its statutory obligation, to provide sufficient secondary schools places within Rutland. This will be achieved by expanding Catmose College, Oakham to deliver additional places through the development of an 8 Form Entry Secondary School. Council approved the project initiation document in March 2021 (35/2021) and the subsequent legal agreement was approved and signed in June 2021.
- 1.2 This report will provide an update of progress to date and the ongoing actions required to complete the project successfully.

#### 2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Under the Education Act 1996 Section 14 the Local Authority has statutory functions in respect of provision of primary and secondary schools. These include:

- A local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available for their area.
- A local authority in England shall exercise their functions under this section with a view to
  - a) securing diversity in the provision of schools, and
  - b) increasing opportunities for parental choice.
- The law requires the Local Authority to admit pupils irrespective of the Local Authority in which they live which means that preference cannot be made for Rutland residents, with admission to schools reflecting their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.

2.2 Cabinet received the Stage 1 study (report 93/2020) on 31 July 2020 and approved the need to progress to the Stage Two Feasibility Study for school expansion at the preferred site of Catmose College, Oakham.

Cabinet received the Project initiation documentation (report 35/2021) in February 2021 and approved the project commencement.

2.3 Rutland County Council have a Grant Agreement in place around the delivery and financials relating to this project. This agreement is between the Council and Rutland and District Schools federation and states each parties' obligations. The agreement was signed and sealed on the 17th of June 2021 and approved this as the lead document for the project.

The Catmose Expansion Project consisted of three interrelated yet distinct actions:

- Moving and resettlement of Community Care Day Services (Brightways) which was completed both on time and on budget by September 2021.
- Remodelling and refurbishment of the internal spaces vacated by Brightways to establish a minimum of four new classrooms which was completed by July 2022.
- Building of new facilities to include three science labs; two design and technology labs; an ICT classroom; breakout spaces and associated other spaces to be completed by end of August 2023

### **3. REMODELLING OF INTERNAL SPACES AT CATMOSE COLLEGE**

3.1 The project converted circa 450 square metres of vacated space (previously used by Brightways).

3.2 The project converted circa 450 square metres of vacated space (previously used by Brightways).

3.3 These works were completed both on time and under budget with £30,000 being transferred to the new build element of the project.

3.4 This has enabled an eight form entry for Year 7 at Catmose College in September 2022 and enabled RCC to meet its secondary school place requirements for the

academic year 22/23.

#### **4. NEW BUILD AT CATMOSE COLLEGE UPDATE**

- 4.1 CPMG have been appointed as the architects for this part of the project and BAM Construction have been appointed as main contractors.
- 4.2 Planning consent was delayed due to issues with the environment and Sports England. These objections have been successfully mitigated and planning permission was granted on 30 September 2022.
- 4.3 Building works for the new build element of the school expansion commenced in November 2022 and are scheduled for completion in September 2023. There is sufficient internal space to meet the second tranche of eight form entry students in September 2023 and the completion of the new build element will secure eight form entry ongoing.
- 4.4 Design plans are given for information in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 Currently works are progressing well and within the predicted timelines identified in the GANTT chart.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The total budget agreed as part of report 35/2021 was £5.5m. The new build element (section 4) has been negotiated with a fixed price.
- 6.2 The current forecasts show that the £5.5m budget will be sufficient to complete all aspects of the project.
- 6.3 The grant agreement (report 155/2021) sets out indicative payment dates and milestones that must be met before the next phase payment is released. The grant agreement also sets out reporting requirements of the school to the School's Capital Programme Board.
- 6.4 The grant agreement clearly states the financial obligation limits of the Council with no additional financial support available to support this project from the Council. The College are aware that they will have to meet any overspends. Any underspends will be retained by the Council.

#### **7. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The Schools' Capital Programme Board is established to manage and oversee the overall programme and ensure there is proper financial control as per initiation documentation approved by Cabinet in February 2021 (report 35/2021).
- 7.2 Under the Councils project management framework this project is to provide updates on progress against key milestones, this is the third of these reports for this project to meet this requirement.

## **8. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no data protection implications arising out of this report.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

9.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed previously and no further issues have arisen.

## **10. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no community safety implications arising out of this report.

## **11. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising out of this report.

## **12. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Environmental implications

12.2 To explore and implement the use of materials where practicable, which optimise the carbon reduction measures and their usage, while ensuring a functional and cost-effective balance is maintained. Implementing environmental best practice where practicable throughout the contract. Key measures to address sustainability and environmental impact were incorporated at the design stage and formed a part of the successful planning application.

## **13. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 Overall, the project is making very good progress in line with the key milestones previously agreed.

13.2 It is of note that this project is being delivered on time and within budget.

## **14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1 No additional background papers to the report.

## **15. APPENDICES**

15.1 Appendix 1 – New Build Plans

**A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.**