

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****15 July 2014****Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults****Priority School Building Programme 2 – Proposed Expression of Interest –  
(Children and Young People)**

1. **Purpose of Report** To approve the submission of an expression of interest to the Education Funding Agency for schools to be included in the second round of the Priority School Building Programme.
2. **Information and Analysis**
  - 2.1 On 1 May 2014, the DfE announced that the Government would fund a second phase of the Priority School Building Programme with a value of around £2 billion. This new phase is proposed to be a five year programme (between 2015 and 2021). The programme is to undertake major rebuilding and refurbishment projects in those schools and sixth form colleges in the very worst condition.
  - 2.2 On 29 May 2014, the DfE published the bidding guidance for the PSBP2 and announced a closing date for expressions of interest of 18 July.
  - 2.3 The guidance issued by the DfE set out the general principles that will guide the prioritisation of projects:
    - Priority will be given to projects where the cost of addressing the need would be hardest for local authorities , dioceses or academies to fund locally;
    - Priority will be given to projects where continuing maintenance costs justify complete rebuild or refurbishment
    - Funding will not be provided to schools that have received recent investment
    - Projects addressing suitability (eg the ability to meet curriculum requirements rather than condition) of school buildings will not be supported
    - Projects where there is no evidence of long term pupil demand will not be supported
    - If authorities want to expand a school, additional funding via basic need allocations will need to be

provided.

2.4 The DfE has indicated that it is a requirement of the programme that the 'responsible body' accepts the following stipulations. For community schools, the responsible body is the Authority, for Voluntary Aided schools, it is the diocese and for Academies it is the Academy trust.

- The contract will be procured by a central body (e.g. Education Funding Agency).
- The procurement will be based on the baseline designs (these standard designs can be seen here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-building-design-and-maintenance> )
- The responsible body must sign a 'Memorandum of Understanding' and a 'Back to Back agreement'
- The department will not be liable for the costs associated with any off-site works required by the project (for example, highway improvements that are a condition of planning approval)
- The responsible body will be liable for any legal costs associated with establishing the title to the site where the works are to take place.

2.5 It is understood that the Department will be using the results of the Property Data Survey to assess the expressions of interest. The Property Data Survey is a nationwide survey of the condition of school buildings. This data is not yet available to local authorities so it cannot be used to select schools for the Authority's expression of interest.

2.6 The Authority maintains its own condition survey of all school buildings. This information has been analysed and in particular the following issues have been addressed:-

- the total maintenance backlog by school,
- the total maintenance backlog by individual blocks and,
- the cost of the maintenance backlog per square metre of building has been assessed.

A long list of schools with high rates of backlog was further analysed to assess the strength of the case that could be made for PSBP funding. In particular, the strength of the case judged against the DfE criteria of structural problems, asbestos problems and recent spend against a certain threshold were assessed.

2.7 Buildings / schools with less than 1000m<sup>2</sup> of accommodation were not included within the proposed expression of interest. A notional

rebuild cost of a school of this size would be in the region of £2.5m. Schemes smaller than this do feature in the CAYA Capital Programme and therefore it is likely that schemes of this size would fail the principle set out in paragraph 2.4 that only projects which could not be funded locally should be included.

2.8 The detailed assessment criteria and weightings to be used by the DfE are not clear. Nevertheless, the projects suggested for the expression of interest that are included at Appendix A have been assessed as presenting the best fit with the selection principles set out by the DfE above.

2.9 As referred to in the report the closing date for expressions of interest to the Education Funding Agency for schools to be included in the second round of the Priority Schools Building Programme is 18 July 2014. In view of the need to submit the expression of interest before the closing date it has been necessary to request Councillor Diane Charles, Chairman of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People, to consider the proposed waiving of the call-in period in respect of this report. Councillor Charles has agreed that it is reasonable in all the circumstances to agree to the request being treated as a matter of urgency in order to ensure that the expression of interest to the Education Funding Agency can be submitted by 18 July 2014.

### **3 Financial Considerations**

It is clear from paragraph 2.4 that some funding may be required of the Authority to support parts of any approved project that will not be funded by the DfE. This will be subject to further submission to Cabinet when appropriate. The Authority has one scheme, Alfreton Grange, which has been included in the first round of PSBP and the scheme has similarly approved funding of elements not provided by the DfE.

### **4 Legal Considerations**

As set out in paragraph 2.4, by submitting an expression of interest, the Authority is accepting that it will be required to enter into an memorandum of understanding and an agreement with the DfE concerning the details of the project. The principle of these documents has already been agreed by the Authority because similar agreements have been concluded with respect to the PSBP scheme at Alfreton Grange. Whilst the principle is agreed, the details will be subject to further agreement of the Authority.

### **5 Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, financial, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

- 6 **Key Decision** Yes
- 7 **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? Yes.
- 8 **Background Papers** A file is held in the Children and Younger Adults Development Section.
- 9 **Strategic Director's Recommendations** That Cabinet agrees
  - 9.1 that the Authority submit to the DfE the projects in Appendix 1 as an expression of interest in Priority School Building Programme 2; and
  - 9.2 to waive call-in to enable the projects to be submitted by 18 July 2014.

## Appendix 1

Shortlisted Schemes for PSBP 2 Expression of interest			
UPRN	Name	Types	Total Condition Liability
1279-01	Heath Primary School	Primary	£1,061,120.67
2583-01	Ashgate Croft School	Special	£1,392,095.26
2734-01	Alfreton Park Community Special School	Special	£728,212.91
1292-01	Cotmanhay Infant School	Primary	£581,588.00
1293-01	Cotmanhay Junior School	Primary	£1,241,027.04
1565-01	Wilsthorne Business and Enterprise College	Secondary	£3,764,391.38
1326-01	Parklands Infant & Nursery School	Primary	£543,490.00
1321-01	Harrington Junior School	Primary	£415,054.46
1579-01	William Allitt School, The	Secondary	£2,414,754.13
1440-01	Newhall Community Junior School	Primary	£752,894.50
1577-01	Granville Sports College	Secondary	£2,679,527.16