

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 MAY 2008

PRIMARY CAPITAL STRATEGY

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consult Members about the Primary Capital Strategy.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A key facts sheet is attached as Appendix A. A short version of the strategy document plus consultation response sheet is attached as Appendix B. The full version of the Strategy, which has already been circulated to all Elected Members and schools, can be found on the North Yorkshire County Council website or is available on request from Marion Sadler, Directorate Support Officer (email: marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk).

2.2 An officer will attend the Area Committee to brief Members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to support the Strategy so that capital funding can be released to North Yorkshire schools.

CYNTHIA WELBOURN
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

Report prepared by Bernadette Jones, Assistant Director, Strategic Services

Background Documents: Nil

PRIMARY CAPITAL STRATEGY – A QUICK GUIDE

Please find attached two consultation papers about the Primary Capital Strategy plus a response sheet.

Some Key Facts

- All Local Authorities are currently consulting on their Strategy. Responses have to be sent to the DCSF by 16 June. Once the response is approved by government, funding will be released.
- The Strategy is about the government's ambition to refurbish half the primary schools in the country over the next 14 years.
- North Yorkshire expects to receive nearly £12M capital to do this in 2009-11 and around £3.7M a year for each of the following 12 years.
- The Primary Capital Strategy paper for submission to the DCSF is a long document. All Local Authorities are required to submit a strategy which is set out in no more than 15-20 pages. However, the list of things which we are required to include covers 11½ pages!! Therefore it is written to a required formula and this means that it is not an easy read.
- That is why we have also produced a summary document of four pages which sets out the key points.
- Officers will be attending the following meetings to explain the strategy:
 - all Primary School Improvement Network meetings
 - Area Committees of the County Council
 - Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board
 - Early Years and Childcare Partnership
 - Admissions Forum
 - Governor Fora
 - Voluntary Schools Liaison Group
- There will also be an article in the NY Times to consult parents and the wider public.
- Everyone is encouraged to complete the attached response sheet. The DCSF guidance states that a majority of schools should support the Strategy. You are urged to respond to enable this significant funding to be released for North Yorkshire schools. The closing date for responses is **Friday 16 May**. The address is at the bottom of the response sheet.



Primary Capital Programme

February 2008

The Primary Capital Programme aims to renew at least half of all primary school buildings in the country by 2023. The intention is to create primary schools that are equipped for 21st century teaching and learning, and are at the heart of their communities with children's services in reach of every family.

North Yorkshire will receive £12M for the programme for 2009-11 and around £3.7M in each of the following 12 years. To obtain this funding, our proposals need to be approved by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Our starting point in North Yorkshire

The Primary Capital Programme provides a welcome opportunity to improve facilities and prospects for schools which face the biggest challenges from deprivation, lower attainment or viability. In North Yorkshire we want to develop a balanced programme which benefits both rural and urban areas. This programme is not about undertaking rapid change everywhere, but long-term development for parts of our County with the biggest challenges.

Currently we have 325 primary schools in North Yorkshire. The funding for 2009-11, even supported by other funds, will only cover about 6-8 schools.

As a Council we maintain a higher proportion of small and very small schools than other rural authorities. 168 schools have fewer than 100 pupils, and 75 of these have fewer than 50 pupils. Small schools will continue to be an important part of our service (In the recent past we have built new schools for around 120 pupils where that is the right way forward in some rural areas).

How will our priorities be determined?

The Primary Capital Programme is a 14 year programme. Inevitably, priorities will change over time as the circumstances of schools change. A rolling programme will take into account "readiness to deliver" from a range of priority schemes.

Our approach will need to address national priorities:

- issues relating to buildings
- sufficiency issues, either surplus or oversubscription
- deprivation
- standards

We will also use the programme to support existing priorities in North Yorkshire:

- developing integrated services at schools in the 22 localities. Projects which join up with our funding for Extended Schools and Children's Centres will have priority, as this will increase local access for children including those with disabilities as well as local community;
- the Review of Special Educational Needs and Behaviour provision. The need for learning support units in a primary network across the country is one of our key aims in the next few years. Where possible we will join up funding to progress these developments;
- replacement of worn-out temporary accommodation with permanent where needed;
- promoting collaboration between schools. We have been actively promoting confederation and federation (where schools usually share a headteacher, and with federation, have a single governing body) between schools as a means of tackling falling rolls and strengthening leadership in schools. However, there are opportunities in many parts of the County for small schools to come together through amalgamations to create a stronger school for their communities as well as reducing surplus places.

OUR CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY:

Firstly, to schools involved in reorganisation proposals which take out surplus places and which result in the need for a new school. The minimum capacity for a new school will be 120 places, unless the circumstances are exceptional eg extreme rurality.

Secondly, to schools involved in reorganisation proposals which take out surplus places and where refurbishment/extensions are required to progress the proposal.

Thirdly, to schools where proposals for Integrated Services or provision in connection with the Review of Special Educational Needs and Behaviour provision are being developed and supporting funding is needed to address these developments.

Fourthly, to schools on the Local Authority's priority list which has been determined taking into account the condition, suitability and sufficiency of buildings, standards, deprivation and data on demand for places. This priority list will be revised on a two year basis. If an area review is needed before progressing any school on the priority list, then the outcome may give priority to the schools in the wider area.

The Local Authority's priority list has been drawn up using a points scoring system with buildings, sufficiency, deprivation, standards being given equal weighting of 25% each.

The Programme for 2009/11

The Local Authority's priority list data will be used to help identify the programme for 2009/11 when the first 15 schools will be considered.

Clearly with only £12M it will not be possible to progress all schools from this band in the first two years because some are not ready to proceed for various reasons either:

they are infant or junior schools and a review of structures needs to take place prior to them proceeding in into the programme,

or

they are in an area where a strategic overview of provision needs to take place before proceeding because of either the need for additional places because of housing development, or because there are significant falling rolls in the area.

Among the first 15 schools identified, there are four infant or junior schools:

Braeburn Infant and Braeburn Junior
Barrowcliff Infant and Barrowcliff Junior

There needs to be local discussion with these schools to assess whether the current structures are appropriate or whether these should be restructured as part of the investment process. There may be different answers in different cases.

Among the first 15 schools identified, there are also schools in areas of significant falling rolls:

Harrogate North and East
Grove Road Community Primary
Starbeck Community Primary

Skipton
Ings Community Primary

Before considering progressing rebuilding or remodelling of these schools, consideration needs to be given to the position in the wider area where there are considerable falling rolls. The outcome will produce a strategy for the wider area which may result in a greater priority for other schools in the area as a whole in the overall programme.

Among the first 15 schools identified, there are also schools where there is significant additional housing to come:

Overdale Community Primary
Braeburn Infant and Braeburn Junior

Consideration needs to be given to the way forward for Eastfield and the Middle Deepdale development in South Scarborough before these schools go forward for rebuilding or remodelling.

The remaining schools in the first 15 identified are:

Friarage Community Primary
Selby Community Primary
East Whitby Community Primary
Norton Community Primary
Hinderwell Community Primary
Colburn Community Primary
Selby Abbey CE Primary *

* Proposal currently being taken forward for a replacement school by developer with Local Authority contribution.

We propose to proceed by working with the first 15 schools on the list to develop proposals. We will also work on proposals coming forward from other schools where schools come together through amalgamation. If more schemes are ready to proceed than funding is available, then the priority criteria set out in the shaded box above will operate.

Further information

The full strategy is available at www.northyorks.gov.uk or on request from the address below.

Presentations will be made at the County Council's Area Committees, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board, the Early Years and Childcare Partnership, the Admissions Forum and other key strategic meetings on request.

Your views

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can complete the attached response sheet, or respond by letter to:

North Yorkshire County Council
Strategic Services
Children and Young People's Service
FREEPOST NEA10908
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8BR

or respond online at: <https://forms.northyorks.gov.uk/eforms/contents.aspx>

The closing date for responses is **16 May 2008**. A final report on the consultation will be made to the County Council's Executive in June before the strategy is submitted to the DCSF.



North

Yorkshire County Council

Children and Young People's Service

Primary Capital Programme Consultation

We propose that first priority should be given to schools involved in reorganisation proposals which take out surplus places and which result in the need for a new school. The minimum capacity for a new school will be 120 places, unless the circumstances are exceptional eg extreme rurality.

Do you agree or disagree?

We propose that second priority should be given to schools involved in reorganisation proposals which take out surplus places and where refurbishment/extensions are required to progress the proposal.

Do you agree or disagree?

We propose that third priority should be given to schools where proposals for Integrated Services or provision in connection with the Review of Special Educational Needs and Behaviour provision are being developed and supporting funding is needed to address these developments.

Do you agree or disagree?

We propose that fourth priority be given to schools on the Local Authority's priority list which has been determined taking into account the condition, suitability and sufficiency of buildings, standards, deprivation and data on demand for places.

Do you agree or disagree?

We propose to revise the priority list on a two year basis.

Do you agree or disagree?

Do you support the principles of this strategy? **Yes or No**

If you do not, please say why.....

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Please tick the box which best describes you as a respondent:

Parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diocese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headteacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner agency	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Early years provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
School staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential promoter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Name of School or Organisation

Signed

Date:

Name (Block Capitals)

Address:

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Postcode:

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand:

Yes or No

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

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Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, responses to the consultation may be accessed by members of the public.

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

**North Yorkshire County Council
Strategic Services
Children and Young People's Service
FREEPOST NEA10908
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DL7 8BR**

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