

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Resources Scrutiny Commission

20th September 2013

Report of: Service Director – Resource, Planning & Performance (CYPS)

Title: CYPS Capital Programme

Ward: City wide

Officer Presenting Report: Service Director – Resource, Planning & Performance (CYPS)

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 9037950

RECOMMENDATION

The report is for information

Summary

The report summarises changes to the CYPS capital programme based upon the merging School Organisation Strategy for the period to 2017

The significant issues in the report are:

The Council has been successful in accessing additional funding to provide additional school places to reflect growing pupil numbers. In the short to medium term, this means that the Council can progress with a number of schemes. However, the funding profile is such that there would, based upon current estimates, be a funding shortfall from 2016. This is based upon work on the revised School Organisation Strategy, which will be the subject of discussion by Cabinet at the end of October. The actual profile of spend may, therefore, be subject to change and should only be taken as indicative at this stage.

Policy

1. School Organisation Strategy

Consultation

2. Internal
Not applicable

3. External
Not applicable

Context

4. The main component part of the CYPS capital programme relates to the School Organisation Strategy and the most significant elements within this strategy is the need to provide significant additional primary school places.

5. The rate of growth of primary age children in Bristol is amongst the fastest in the country. The Council has seen a 30% rise in the number of pupils entering the Reception Year in the last 5 years. This equates to more than a 1,000 extra pupils requiring extra school places in each year group. Despite this exceptional increase, performance has improved and the Council is now meeting more parental preferences (96% compared to 91%). Because of the rate of growth and the historic context (up until 4 years ago, the Council had a programme which included removing primary school places despite the population increase), solutions have had to be bespoke. In a number of cases, this has meant schools taking additional classes of pupils in temporary accommodation whilst more substantive schemes to provide the full 7 years of education at the primary age range are developed. In 2012/13 approximately 770 new places were created in modular accommodation and through use of existing premises. A further 810 places have been set up for September 2013 which maintains the increased places available in Reception and allows the September 2012 intake to move up a year group. Moving forward, given that many schools have already been expanded, new schools will be more of a feature.

6. The current School Organisation Strategy was approved by Cabinet in the Autumn of 2012. Cabinet will have the opportunity to review the strategy on 31st October 2013. Cabinet will need to consider any changes to the strategy in light of continuing growth in primary numbers and pupils with Special Educational Needs, greater cost certainty in relation to individual projects and the availability of funding given a number of successful grant applications. However, it should be noted that delivery of schemes to ensure that there are sufficient school places continues and that the required places for 2013 have been delivered.

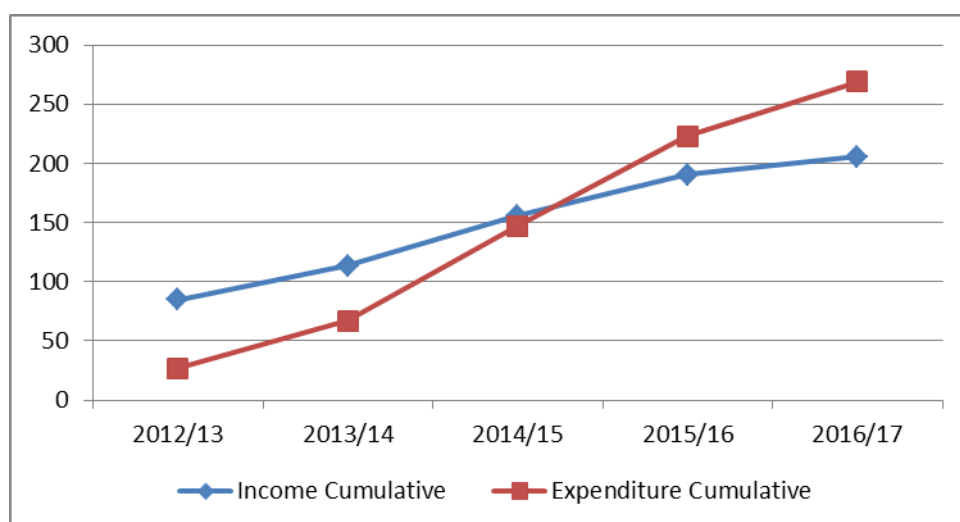
7. Officers have, however, undertaken a review of the CYPS capital programme in order to profile the budget more accurately in line with milestone payments. It had been hoped that this work could have been completed earlier, but the introduction of the Council's new finance system and other priorities meant that key staff were unavailable to help complete this task. As a consequence and as previously reported to the Resources Scrutiny Commission, this work was scheduled for completion in the first

quarter of 2013/14. This work has been completed and the results have informed the revised spend profile. The revised spend profile reflects the significant success over the last 2 years in accessing external funding.

8. Current estimates are that the assessed costs of the revised School Organisation Strategy are £269m (from 2012). Including the £20m of locally raised capital, the current secured funding is approximately £175m. There is, therefore, still a considerable gap. A recent National Audit Office report made clear that the DfE expects Local Authorities to contribute 20% through local resources to meet the challenges associated with the provision of additional school places. The report also identified that the average level of local contribution is currently 34%.

	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m
Carry forward	38.3				
Basic Need	42.0	16.9	16.9		
Maintenance	4.8	3.6	3.6		
Targeted bids		8.0	21.5		
Capital stimulus				20.0	
Assumed grants				15.0	15.0
Income	85.1	28.5	42.0	35.0	15.0
Income Cumulative	85.1	113.6	155.6	190.6	205.6

Expenditure	26.9	40.0	80.0	76.0	46.0
Expenditure Cumulative	26.9	66.9	146.9	222.9	268.9



9. For the purposes of planning, it is assumed that there will be further allocations totalling £15m per annum over the period 2015-17 (three financial years). This figure is lower than that which has been secured through targeted bids and the allocation of additional national funds. It is, however, commensurate with more recent formulaic allocations. Based upon this assumption, the planning figure would increase to £220m. There would,

therefore, still be a funding gap of approximately £49m to the period to 2017. There is, therefore, still a need to explore opportunities to reduce this funding gap including, but not limited to:

- Reductions in project costs – although the average cost of an additional primary school place is approximately £15,060 against a DfE benchmark of approximately £15,429
- Continuing to maximise external grant/funding – the DfE have as part of the latest allocations attached conditions to grants to ensure that the funds are spent on named schemes. The conditions do not require any form of matched funding, but this may be a feature moving forward
- How the Council uses its wider asset base/resources

10. Because of the success of accessing external funding, it is currently considered unlikely that the Council would need to utilise the borrowing approval in relation to the £20m capital stimulus until some point in 2016. This is because the level of funding available is greater than anticipated expenditure until 2015/16 as shown on the graph above.

Proposal

11. There are no recommendations. The report is for information only.

Other Options Considered

12. Not applicable

Risk Assessment

13. Not applicable

Public Sector Equality Duties

8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a

relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

8b) Not applicable

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The legal duties of the Council are contained in the currently approved School Organisation Strategy

Financial

(a) Revenue

The revenue implications of additional school places impact upon the Dedicated Schools Grant. As a consequence, such matters are referred to the local Schools Forum.

(b) Capital

As contained in the body of the report

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None