

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	26 July 2010
Title:	Building Schools for the Future – Update report
Reference:	1661
Report From:	Director of Children’s Services Director of Property, Business and Regulatory Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the recent statement by the Secretary of State for Education about the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and its likely implications for the County Council.
- 1.2 Building Schools for the Future is a national programme which was intended to rebuild, remodel, or refurbish all secondary and secondary age special schools in England. The County Council joined the programme at a relatively late stage in its development, as entry priority was determined by nationally applied criteria of deprivation and educational attainment. Work on the first of ten project phases in Hampshire was well advanced when the Secretary of State announced on 5 July 2010 that most of the projects in authorities which joined the programme in recent months would be stopped. Hampshire’s first wave project is included in this category.
- 1.3 Following the announcement, a strategic review of the future priorities for school capital investment is being undertaken by the Department for Education (DfE). The amount of capital funding available will be determined through the spending review process, the outcome of which will be announced on 20 October 2010.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1 The County Council’s Expression of Interest for inclusion in the national BSF programme, which was submitted to PfS in December 2008, identified ten geographically based phases of investment across Hampshire. These were prioritised, as requested by PfS, according to educational and social need. The Havant and Horndean area emerged as the highest priority area and formed Phase 1 of the Hampshire programme. This phase, comprising nine

schools (six secondaries and three specials) and one education centre was expected to attract some £80m of central government investment.

- 2.2 After joining the national programme in July 2009, the County Council submitted its Strategy for Change (SfC) for Phase 1 in March 2010, following approval by the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services. The SfC set out the County Council's aspirations for what BSF would deliver and established a framework for delivery, building on work carried out by individual schools to produce School Strategies for Change (SSfCs), which set out their local aspirations and plans. At the time of the Secretary of State's announcement, work was almost complete on preparation of the Outline Business Case, which set out detailed investment proposals for the ten establishments.

3. Announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on 5 July 2010

- 3.1 On 5 July the Secretary of State for Education announced that, with the exception of a number of BSF projects which were very well advanced and where formal funding agreements had been entered into, or were close to completion, other BSF projects would be stopped. The County Council's Phase 1 project for Havant and Horndean is in this category, together with projects in 90 [to be checked] other authorities.
- 3.2 The only exceptions to the list of stopped projects is for academies where funding agreements have been approved by the Secretary of State. The eligibility of these projects for BSF investment will be assessed by the DfE over coming weeks against a set of criteria which include a requirement to provide additional pupil places and/or where continued use of existing accommodation would present educational problems. Havant Academy is included in Hampshire's BSF project and a funding agreement has been signed. It will, therefore, be eligible to be considered for investment as part of the DfE's assessment process. As a result, it is possible that major investment at Havant Academy could proceed in advance of a broader review of future capital funding and the announcement of funding allocations.
- 3.3 This comprehensive review of school capital arrangements will begin shortly and will advise the Secretary of State on future policy, priorities and delivery arrangements. The future of investment at the remaining nine establishments in the County Council's BSF programme will not be clear until the review is completed and the amount of capital funding available for investment in schools in future years is known. In practice this is unlikely before late autumn. The BSF programme itself will not continue and capital investment priorities will need to be re-assessed in the light of the outcome of the national review and the amount of funding available. At this stage it is unclear how much discretion local authorities will have in setting local priorities. The Secretary of State said in his announcement that some BSF school projects which are stopped might receive investment once the review is completed and ministers have established the parameters for future investment.

- 3.4 In the meantime, officers will re-examine school investment priorities across the board in readiness for Government announcements, so that informed decisions can be made about future priorities. It is clear, however, that significant rebuilding work at Park Community School, Havant, one of the stopped BSF projects, will need to be a high priority for the County Council, as a significant area of the school consists of a form of pre-cast concrete system construction, which is coming to the end of its useful life and will require replacement in the near future.
- 3.5 A very significant amount of work has been carried out to develop the first phase of BSF in Hampshire to meet central Government requirements for the release of investment funding. While some of this was undertaken to satisfy specific BSF requirements, much of it has lasting benefits, including support for partnership working in Havant towards educational transformation. In particular the elements relating to identifying and prioritising schools' needs and the development of building designs will be directly relevant to future investment opportunities in Havant and Horndean schools, should they emerge following the review. While the team set up to manage the BSF project will be wound down, resources will be available to develop the projects further should funding become available.
- 3.6 It is proposed that a further report will be submitted to the Executive Lead member for Children's Services, or to Cabinet if appropriate, once the outcome of the review of school capital funding and the size of future capital allocations are known.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 That Cabinet notes:
- a) that following the recent statement by the Secretary of State for Education, the ten projects in the County Council's Building Schools for the Future programme in Havant and Horndean have been stopped;
 - b) that the Department for Education is undertaking a wide-ranging review of options for capital investment in schools and that a further report to the Executive Lead member for Children's Services, or to Cabinet if appropriate, on the implications for the County Council will be submitted once the implications are known;
 - c) that officers will continue to work with Government to secure the maximum levels of capital resources to allow major investment in schools to continue.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1 BSF investment proposals would have been expected to impact favourably on equality and diversity issues.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1 BSF investment proposals would have been expected to impact favourably on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

The BSF programme included stringent energy consumption targets, which applied both to new construction and to the refurbishment of existing buildings.

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The need to address climate change was considered in developing the County Council's BSF programme and would have continued to have high importance as the BSF project developed through the building design stage.