



Executive
27th May 2008

**Report from the Director of
Children and Families**

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Developing the Primary (Schools) Capital Programme in
Brent**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F-07/08-004

Appendix 4 is not for publication

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) objectives and requirements for the Primary Capital Programme (PCP), a national initiative which aims to renew at least half of all primary school buildings in England by 2022/23, with the aim of creating primary schools that are equipped for world class learning and teaching, and are at the heart of their communities. It explains the requirement on the Council to submit a Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) before funding is released, together with the process undertaken for developing and consulting on the strategy.
- 1.2 In Brent the overriding priority for investment of the available PCP resource, against the backdrop of sharply rising demand for school places, will be driven by the need to create additional school places. At the same time and over a phased investment plan, we also need to improve the suitability and condition of school buildings thus contributing also to the aim of raising educational standards. Within this programme there is an expectation that there will be a balance of new build and rebuild primary schools, remodelled accommodation and minor refurbishments. As a result of the process Brent's PCP will deliver an increase in the number of school places available in the Borough but will also deliver on other priorities.

- 1.3 This report encloses a draft PSfC, it sets out the approach to developing Brent's Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC), how the PCP will be developed and delivered, the approach to identifying projects, initial priorities and next steps in the short, medium and longer term. It also seeks authority to be delegated to the Directors of Children and Families, and Finance and Corporate Services to finalise the submission following comments and decisions from the Executive and one further consultative meeting with primary Headteachers aimed at seeking their views on the near final form of the PSfC.

2.0 Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the draft Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) enclosed as Attachment 1.
- 2.2 Approve the approach to the development of the Primary Capital Programme and the initial priorities set out in the report.
- 2.3 Agree that the provision of additional primary places and the replacement of poor accommodation in areas of multiple deprivation are confirmed as the key strategic objectives of the Primary Capital Programme in Brent.
- 2.4 Agree to delegate, to the Director of Children and Families in consultation with both the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the lead Member for Children and Families, authority to finalise the PSfC based on the draft submitted with this report as Attachment 1.
- 2.5 Note that the Director of Children and Families will proceed with the necessary public consultation (relating to statutory procedures required to be followed when proposing changes to forms of school organisation) to be carried out to enable the priorities identified in the first four years to be delivered with respect to:
- 2.5.1 The expansion of Sudbury School, through additional accommodation, from 3 Forms of Entry to 4 Forms of Entry with effect from 01/09./2011;
- 2.5.2 The expansion of Stonebridge School, in newbuild accommodation, from 1 Forms of Entry to 2 Forms of Entry, with effect from 01/09/2011;
- 2.5.3 The future organisation and size of Carlton Vale Infants and Kilburn Park Junior Schools taking any steps necessary arising from the provisions of the Education Act 2006 governing school competition rules;

- 2.6 Note that the Director of Children and Families will proceed with the necessary consultation in respect of the new 2 Forms of Entry Primary School on the site of Oriental City development in the context of the provision of the Education Act 2006 governing school competitions;
- 2.7 Note that Department for Children Schools & Families (DCSF) PCP grant alone is insufficient to deliver the desired transformational change to Brent's primary schools and that therefore a business case will be submitted in October 2008 setting out proposals for gap funding Brent's PCP.

3.0 Detail

Primary Capital Programme: National Context

- 3.1 Nationally, the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) aims to rebuild, remodel or refurbish at least half of all primary school buildings by 2023, starting from April 2009. In doing this, Central Government envisages that the PCP will support the delivery of its Children Plan by:
- creating primary schools equipped for world class learning, at the heart of the community, with a range of children's services in reach of every family;
 - delivering a strategic approach to capital investment, which supports national policy aims, raises standards, provides access to joined-up services for children and families and transforms educational opportunities for young people;
 - focusing resources on deprivation nationally and in every Local Authority;
 - reconfiguring the primary estate to account for demographic change.
- 3.2 All maintained primary schools fall within the scope of the PCP, including Voluntary Aided (VA), foundation and Trust schools. It also covers special schools providing for primary age range children only.
- 3.3 The PCP is a 15 year strategy which included 23 pathfinder Authorities from April 2008 with all others including Brent starting in April 2009. Guidance issued by the DCSF (Dec 2007) sets out how Authorities are expected to transform primary schools' provision by taking account of in supporting the Children's Plan by:
- creating primary schools equipped for 21st century learning, at the heart of the community, with a range of children's services in reach of every family;

- delivering a strategic approach to capital investment supporting national aims, delivering world class standards, access to joined up services for children and families as well as addressing local needs and priorities;
- focusing resources on deprivation; and
- reconfiguring the primary capital stock to account for demographic change.

3.4 At a national level PCP is predicated upon generally falling rolls and expects that the rebuilding, remodelling and refurbishing of at least 50% of the national stock of primary schools will be supported by rationalisation of school places and the resulting capital receipts from the disposal of sites.

Primary Strategy for Change – Elements of the Submission and DCSF Assessment

3.5 By 16th June 2008, each of the Local Authorities wishing to benefit from the investment is required to submit a Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which will then be assessed over the summer into early Autumn 2008. The successful assessment of the PSfC – see below – will release Capital resources earmarked for 2009/10 and 2010/11. The resources earmarked for Brent amount to £11.68m across those two years. This key document (a draft of which Brent has produced and is in the process of being revised following various consultation meetings and assessments of sites – Attachment 1) is each local authority's response to information requirements to be included in the PSfC. The information requirements of the PSfC are prescribed and it has to be presented in five core sections as listed below, which outline each Local Authority's overall approach to the delivery of the PCP:

- **The local perspective.** A description of the Authority' and their communities and an overview of the Council's aims and objectives for primary education.
- **Baseline analysis.** An overview of the baseline from which the PCP is starting within the Authority – both in terms of what is currently good about primary education now and what needs to improve going forward.
- **Long-term aims.** The Authority's long term aims for the programme in terms of its priorities for the next 14 years and how this fits with local and national objectives.
- **Approach to change.** How the Authority will deliver the required transformation. This will cover areas such as: governance, criteria for prioritisation, consultation, design, sustainability, ICT, procurement and value for money.

- **Initial investment priorities.** The Council's specific priorities for investment during the first 4 years of the programme.
- 3.6 Government guidance gives detail of the type of issues and information to be included within each of the five sections. The key sections are probably section 3, "Long-term Aims", and section 4 "Approach to Change". The guidance states that section 3 is to show how the PCP investment will support national policy objectives and local priorities, and it is stated that the local aims should fit within the national ones. So section 3 sets out :
- How the Council's aims will support delivery of the government's Children's Plan
 - How PCP will improve educational outcomes, through improved design of classrooms, enhanced learning through improved technology
 - Delivering on the "Every Child Matters" agenda, such as complementing Early Years investment, addressing the needs of pupils with special needs, improving kitchens to promote healthy eating, improved provision of sport and play facilities, increasing extended services, co-location of Children's Centres
 - Promotion of Diversity, Choice and Responsiveness to Parents
 - Plans for rebuilding or taking out of use the 5% of schools in the worst condition, significantly improving 45% of schools, and making good use in the long term of standard Devolved Capital Funding for the remaining 50% of schools.
- 3.7 According to the government guidance section 4 "Approach to Change" should include:
- Planning and monitoring processes
 - How educational transformation will be achieved, including ICT support, involving schools in planning projects, links to early years and secondary education, innovative design
 - Finance, including the use of other funding streams, both from DCSF and elsewhere
 - How projects will be procured, including procurement of ICT as well as building projects
 - How excellence in design will be achieved
- 3.8 Following assessment, in September 2008 the DCSF will put each of the Authorities' PSfC in one of three categories:
- **Approved.** The PSfC is assessed as good across each of the required elements; indicative funding allocations will be confirmed and the programme can move ahead.
 - **Approved with conditions:** The PSfC is rated as generally acceptable but the DCSF has reservations on some aspect(s). Feedback will be provided on areas of concern; funding allocations will be conditional upon resolution of the issues specified.

- **Not approved.** The PSfC has serious weaknesses and does not meet minimum requirements. The DCSF will provide feedback on areas of weakness and invite the Council to re-submit the entire PSfC. Funding for the programme will not be confirmed until a satisfactory PSfC has been submitted.

Based on the significant development and consultation undertaken to date, Officers are confident that Brent's PSfC will fall into the "Approved" category. However, because of the pressing need in Brent to increase school places (see below), which the Executive are asked to approve as the main priority for the PSfC, Brent may not be able to commit to meeting the target set out in the guidance for how many existing schools will be improved (see above). The DCSF have received representations from the Council setting out the case for the need for resources to help expand the supply of school places.

The Primary Capital Programme in Brent

The Local Context : Key Issues

3.9 Brent has 60 primary schools, of which 36 are community, 20 are VA schools, 4 are Foundation schools and two nursery schools. The VA sector in Brent includes Church of England, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Islamic. The Borough has a mixture of provision and some separate infant and junior schools, however, the majority are primary schools. Brent also has four special needs schools catering for primary aged pupils. In terms of Early Years provision, Brent also has two nursery schools, five Children's Centres and a further seven designated Phase 2 Children's Centres. More Children's Centres (a further 8 planned) are to be introduced under Phase 3 of the Council's SureStart Children's Centre Programme.

Education Vision

3.9 Brent's education vision included in the draft PSfC – enclosed as Attachment 1 - sets out the pedagogical context for the PCP submission within which the proposals for change will be developed.

3.10 Brent Council's vision is of a school system in which all children, whatever their age and background:

- Gain the education and care they need to be healthy and safe, enjoy school and achieve success, are able to make a positive contribution to the community and are well prepared for further education and employment.
- Learn the fundamental skills of literacy and numeracy within a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Develop to their potential as confident, enthusiastic and independent learners.

- 3.11 The PCP programme will play a key part in delivering this vision, through renewal and regeneration. During the life-cycle of PCP every primary school will need to be engaged with this vision and incorporate those aims in to the schools' development planning. Section 3 of the PSfC sets out Brent's vision more fully.
- 3.12 The PCP in Brent will be developed co-aligning existing capital resources available for investment in primary schools and where necessary explore additional sources of funding to enable the investment to create transformational change. It is anticipated that investment will be targeted at not just enabling the Authority to respond to demographic pressures but also to address the impact of deprivation and the worst of defects in the condition of school buildings. This investment programme will thus also contribute to the raising of educational achievement of all primary schools as the programme supports the education vision.

Addressing the Special Needs Education (SEN) Review

- 3.13 The 2005 review of special educational needs provision in Brent concluded (amongst other things) that there should continue to be four special schools catering for the primary age pupils, but with some re-designation to reflect more closely the range of children's needs. The development of the PCP programme over its lifetime will take account of this review. The special schools however are not included in the prioritisation matrix (in Attachment 2) as it would not be appropriate to use the same criteria as those used against the mainstream schools. The needs of Manor and Vernon House will therefore need to be further reviewed and their place in the phasing established such that it that meets the Council's strategy, resources allowing.

Linkages to Regeneration and Other Key Corporate Initiatives

- 3.14 Brent has a 20 year Regeneration Strategy, supported by 3 year Action Plans, which sets a clear corporate agenda for the regeneration of the Borough all leading to an improved quality of life for residents in and around Brent. Critical to the delivery of these action plans is the need for the Borough to capitalise on the major physical regeneration opportunities, ensuring that the Council plays a full a pro-active role in both creating and bringing forward these opportunities in such a way as to maximise the positive impact on local people's quality of life.
- 3.15 A number of priority areas for growth and regeneration have been identified through the Council's Local Development Framework, namely Wembley, South Kilburn, Alperton, North Circular Road Corridor, Church End and Edgware Road. In order to ensure a co-ordinated and corporate approach to the delivery of these regeneration schemes the Council has established the Major

Project Group. This brings together senior managers from regeneration, planning, housing, children & families and property on a regular basis to set a clear vision for change and to project manage the regeneration process.

- 3.16 Regeneration and renewal in Brent may impact on the demand for school places. Recently, as a direct result of the increasing linkages across the Council, C&F has secured a site for a new 2FE Primary School in the North East part of the Borough – referred to as Oriental City. PCP will further enable those linkages to take place thus ensuring the twin improvements in primary school provision and other Borough wide improvements. The continually evolving plans for PCP will inform and be informed by these corporate initiatives.

School Estate Investment Need

- 3.17 The Council has been successful in securing funding for a number of capital schemes that will deliver new primary places and improvements to individual primary schools. These include the new build of St. Marry Magdalene Catholic Junior School and Wembley Primary School, both due to be completed in September 2008; funding has also recently secured for primary provision (2FE) at the new The Wembley Park Academy.
- 3.18 These recent investments need to be seen against the very considerable needs of Brent's primary estate; £18 million is required to meet the current condition backlog alone and a further £10 million is required to fund suitability works. To support the development of the PCP in Brent, high level new build, remodel or refurbishment investment options have been identified for each of the Borough's 60 primary schools. This work found that in order to ensure all primary schools have fit for purpose learning and teaching facilities an estimated £350 million is required between 2008/2009 and 2021/2022, at today's prices
- 3.19 As part of this development work for the PCP, an initial draft priority list for investment was shaped up which will be the subject of consultation with schools in the summer term leading up to the submission of Brent's PSfC. It is enclosed with this report as Attachment 2. To produce this initial priority list, all primary schools in Brent were scored using data from visual inspections only against three criteria using a prioritisation matrix. The three criteria are Building Need (Condition, Sufficiency and Suitability), Deprivation (Free School Meals, Family Tax Credits and Indices of Deprivation and Educational Attainment (Outcomes at KS1 and KS2 and Value Added at KS2).
- 3.20 In shaping up the prioritisation matrix account was taken of the DCSF target for Brent of rebuilding the 10% of the Borough's

schools in the worst physical condition and/or in the most deprived areas and improving the condition of 40% of schools.

- 3.21 Following prioritisation schools were then phased over the 14 year lifespan of the PCP. Phasing was undertaken by first considering the priority of the school and then assessing its deliverability as a project. Where a high priority school was not immediately deliverable (due for example to funding constraints, time required for site identification, linkages with regeneration projects etc.), it was deferred accordingly. Where a school was deferred, the next school on the priority list would take its place, subject to an analysis of project deliverability. Importantly, given the critical need to increase the number of primary places in Brent, projects that provide additional capacity to the primary estate have been accelerated.

Demand for Primary Places

- 3.22 There are 3,210 places in reception classes in Brent across Community, VA and Foundation schools. There is increasing demand for school places across the year groups. Demand is most acute in central and west Brent, particularly Wembley central, Sudbury and Alperton, where the majority of primary schools are full. There is some capacity in the south of Brent. As of December 2007, 16 children in years 1 to 6 are without a school place. The October 2007 pupil headcount shows that all reception classes in Brent were full with two exceptions, both faith schools and both in the south of Brent. As of December 2007, 29 reception age children were without a school place.
- 3.23 The last technical report on demographics in the primary sector, issued in January 2007 and updated in-house in the summer of 2007, concluded that an additional eight forms of entry (FE) will be required by 2010 to satisfy the demand for primary places in Brent, with further expansion needed by 2016. 8FE is the equivalent of 1680 places, i.e. 8 classes of 30 pupils x 7 year groups, or 8 additional classes per year group across the Borough.
- 3.24 In order for the Council to meet its statutory requirement to provide sufficient school places, the provision of additional capacity in the primary sector will be a particular and among the central objectives of the PCP in Brent. This makes Brent, together with a handful other Authorities mainly in London and metropolitan areas, unique amongst Local Authorities across the country, where the removal of surplus places is more likely to be the key driver.

Primary Schools as Wider Resource Hubs For Local Communities

- 3.25 The PCP will further enable the Council to support schools in delivering full range of extended services for children, young people

their families and carers. It aims to place primary schools at the heart of every community.

- 3.26 Children's Centres (for under 5 year olds) some of which are located on or close to school sites support this overall ambition to transform the way all services for children and their families are delivered.

Brent's Approach to Preparing the PSfC

Capacity to Prepare & Deliver the Submission

3.27 The C&F commissioned Navigant Consulting to help with the preparation of the PSfC submission. Navigant are currently on the DCSF framework for consultancy services and currently helping a number of Authorities both in and outside London with the preparatory work on PCP.

3.28 C&F Asset Management Service are leading the programme in close co-operation with other C&F services (Early Years, Strategy and Partnerships, School Improvement Service) and corporate colleagues. A cross Council steering group (involving Housing, Regeneration, Borough Solicitors, Environment and Culture) has been briefed on the process of the PCP submission.

Stakeholder Consultation

- 3.27 Primary Head Teachers and other stakeholders have been fully involved in developing Brent's draft PSfC. The Council has established a Strategy Board for School Places, chaired by the Lead Member for Children & Families and including Members from all political parties, Head Teachers and officers from the Council's Children & Families Service.
- 3.28 All primary Head Teachers were invited to a Stakeholder Workshop in March 2008, where the overall aims of the PCP in Brent and factors for prioritisation in Brent were discussed. A copy of the workshop report is available from the office of the Director of C&F. It is proposed to hold a further workshop with Headteachers in May 2008 to seek their approval of Brent's PSfC
- 3.29 Extensive consultation through Governing Bodies, has taken place with respect to the draft PSfC including initial illustrative proposals in the first four years of Brent's PCP. The response, broadly supportive, received (17 in total) can be categorised into the following themes
- The need better to reflect the Council's SEN/Disability/Inclusion agenda;

- The need to establish locally established development priorities in line with individual schools' School Development Plans;
- The perception that PCP does not seem to affect some schools and therefore they felt no need to comment;
- Opposition by one school to it identified as a priority for transformation (potential amalgamation with a neighbouring Junior school to create an expanded – by 1FE – primary school) on the basis that it did not wish to change its school organisation;
- The need for the Authority to be transparent in the decision making process and in allocating resources to priorities;
- The need for the Authority to consider carefully its position on the optimal size of school with some Headteachers pointing to a 4FE sized school as “undesirable”.

3.30 The Council has recently carried out a Borough wide consultation over its Strategy for Developing School Places. The outcomes of the consultation are shown in Attachment 3

3.31 Consultation has taken place with C&F's colleagues on the VA forum – an opportunity regularly to consult on matters relating to school organisation and investment plans with the VA schools' representative which include membership from CofE , RC, Jewish and Islamic. The draft PfSC will be the subject of formal additional discussions with the VA authorities with the view to seeking their final approval.

Brent's Long-Term Aims and Initial Priorities

3.32 There are three long term aims emerging from a combination of the outcomes of consultation and the preparation of the PSfC. They are:

- The Integration of Primary capital Investment with other capital initiatives such as BSF, Regeneration, and other initiatives (such as children's centres, development of Managed Learning Environments – MLEs) whilst at the same time ensuring that successful schools are not overlooked;
- Effective maintenance of the planning of school places across the primary provision to ensure that every child has access to a good school in a local area;
- Raising of educational achievement for all targeting wherever practical areas of high deprivation and schools in poor condition or poor suitability rating.

Initial Phased Priorities for the First Four Years of the PCP

3.33 Through this prioritisation process Brent has identified specific priorities for investment. The table below summarises initial

proposals, shown in the attached PSfC, for the first four years, resources allowing, of the programme in descending order of priority.

Project	Proposal	Position on Draft Prioritisation Matrix	Funding
Sudbury Primary School – This project is funded as a priority project as it will increase capacity in the Primary estate	Expand by 1FE		PCP and Capital Receipts
Carlton Vale Infant (2FE) and Kilburn Park Junior (2FE) – This project is funded as a priority project as it will increase capacity in the Primary estate	New build 3FE primary school on neighbouring recreation ground. Dispose of existing sites to generate capital receipt.	6 and 14 Further dialogue required with both schools.	PCP and capital receipt

The following projects are also included in the initial phase. These projects are not necessarily highest priority but will be funded either through developer's contribution or a capital receipt and therefore have been accelerated

Project	Proposal	Position on Draft Prioritisation Matrix	Funding
Stonebridge Primary and Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary Schools –	Expansion through a newbuild of Stonebridge School from 1FE to 2FE and newbuild of Our Lady Lourdes. Both will be broadly on the site currently occupied by Our Lady of Lourdes.	2 and 13	PCP to gap fund the project mainly being financed from the land release on the Stonebridge site for housing

Project	Proposal	Position on Draft Prioritisation Matrix	Funding
			development.
Oriental City	New 2FE primary	New 2FE primary school in Kingsbury	PCP to provide gap funding. Otherwise to be funded from developer's contribution

3.34 The DCSF has announced a two year allocation (from 2009/10 to 2010/11) of £11.68M to Brent with an indication of funding being released linked to each Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). This resource alone is unlikely to support investment across all identified priorities in the above table. A project plan is under preparation that will set out the financial and procurement plan to deliver all the priorities in the table. This will be brought back to Executive in the autumn of 2008 seeking approval fully to utilise the funding allocated from April 2009 and add Council and other resources (such as LCVAP, Devolved Formula Capital –DFC- Modernisation, Basic Need, s106 Agreements, Prudential Borrowing among others) where they may be identified to support the full implementation of the priorities. There will be other pressure points across Brent's schools. For example, VA schools will need to meet 10% of the capital costs in the VA sector. This may present difficulties for a number of VA schools unless either the Council finds the resources or the DCSF waive the requirement of the 10% contribution from the VA sector as they have done for BSF.

3.35 Stemming from the Education and Inspections Act 2006, new regulations came into force at the end of May 2007 – The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 – these regulations require that if a local authority wishes to establish a new maintained school it must either invite proposals for the school, and arrange a competition between the different bidders; or apply to the Secretary of State for consent to publish proposals for a new school without running a competition. The proposals in the table above (particularly for Oriental City, Carlton Vale and Kilburn Park schools) will need to be developed in line with this legislation.

Procurement and Delivery Options

3.36 In relation to engagement of consultants such as architects and project managers for construction projects, the Council has set up a range of framework agreements which aim to have a more

collaborative and effective for the delivery of a range of building related services. They were set up with a strong education focus and all of the suppliers have a track record in delivering education services. The agreements cover: Programme Manager/Client Advisor; Architecture; Structural Engineering; Mechanical and Electrical; Building Surveying; Quantity Surveying and CDM.

3.37 These frameworks will enable the Council to adjust its resources to ensure the PCP programme can be delivered to time, budget and to the correct standard.

3.38 The DCSF will expect those local authorities where a Local Education Partnership (LEP) – a joint venture company set up with the private sector holding 80% of the shares, the Local Authority holding 10% of the shares and Partnership for Schools (PfS) 10% - is either in place or in formation, to procure PCP projects through the LEP wherever it is feasible to do so. Further explanation of LEPs is explained in the Building Schools for the Future report elsewhere on this agenda. For some projects, it may be appropriate to consider using other frameworks such as NHS LIFT. In the short term, traditional procurement routes will be used for construction works, although recently the Council has started to use a framework set up by the South East Centre of Excellence in Procurement (SECE) (used for the expansion of Preston Manor School). In general, Brent will need to confirm its commitment to:

- procuring efficiently and securing best value for money;
- efficient procurement of ICT, including the use of frameworks;
- using existing or developing mechanisms such as BSF local education partnerships, regional frameworks or exploring opportunities for joint procurement.

3.39 The Diocesan Boards and other VA Authorities' procurement route may, if they choose, differ from that outline herein. This is still a matter of consultation.

3.40 A range of procurement options are therefore potentially available to deliver the PCP in Brent.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 Following Executive approval of this report, the key next steps towards the implementation of the PCP programme in Brent are as follows:

- To formally consult on any proposals requiring statutory Notices;
- submit the Brent's PSfC to the DCSF by 16th June 2008;

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 PCP funding available for Brent will be £4.65m in 2009/10 and £7.03m in 2010/11. The estimated capital cost of the initial priorities for the PCP is £29.021m¹. Costs include £28.076m in relation to buildings and ICT infrastructure and £0.945m in relation to the provision of ICT equipment. A further detailed funding report will be submitted to the Executive in October 2008, following approval by the DCSF of Brent's PSfC. This will include a financial model outlining costs and funding from PCP, developers contributions, capital receipts and potentially Prudential Borrowing.
- 5.2 PCP funding is to be delivered via specific grant rather than supported borrowing and will be made available to LAs without any conditional requirement for additional funding. As explained earlier in the report, however, to fully exploit the transformational change expected, additional "gap" funding is a probable requirement. The options for funding this would include the general fund, capital receipts, prudential borrowing and also a contribution from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The DSG is a ringfenced grant that is received by LAs for all school based expenditure including schools delegated funding. This option would need to be reviewed carefully in consultation with all primary schools and the Schools Forum to ensure that schools' revenue funding needs are not adversely affected.
- 5.3 As of yet the DCSF has not clarified the mechanism for carrying over any unspent grant from one year to the next. This will need to be reviewed as with all large construction projects some slippage is probable and it would be important that LAs are allowed some flexibility to carry-forward funding for this purpose.
- 5.4 Another potential funding risk relates to the fact that funding levels have only been announced for the first two years of the programme. Funding beyond that is subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review, which introduces a large degree of uncertainty for the medium and long term.
- 5.5 Due to the large element of expansion planned through the PCP it's important to highlight the issue of increased revenue costs arising from the growth in pupil numbers. The DSG that is set for LAs each year is adjusted to reflect growth in pupil numbers, hence the extra revenue costs should become available from growth in the DSG, which can then be passed on to schools as necessary.

6.0 Legal Implications

¹ These costs do not include Oriental City as this is a new school on a new site.

- 6.1 As indicated above, the Council's access to the funds proposed under the Primary Capital Programme depends on approval of the Council's Primary Strategy for Change. The non-statutory guidance issued by the government sets out certain expectations about what will be within this. The need to expand school places is not specifically recognised within this guidance except in passing, so if the Executive agree that this should be the main priority for Brent's Strategy for Change, then there is a risk that the government will wish to see this balanced against other government aims. This could result in Brent being asked to revise its PSfC.
- 6.2 Local authorities are under a duty to plan for sufficient school places for the children of their area. As referred to above in this report there has been recent substantial public consultation on the present situation in Brent as regards school places and the proposals for the future, as set out in the consultation document, "Have Your Say, A Good School for All in Brent: Shaping the Future of Our Schools" of January 2008. The responses to this consultation exercise are influencing the organisation proposals for specific schools.
- 6.3 There will be ongoing involvement of the Council's Legal Services in the procurement of construction projects to be run under the PCP. This will need to be done in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and the European public procurement legislation.

7.0 Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Brent is a borough of stark contrasts in its economic, environmental, ethnic and social make-up. It has the second highest proportion of ethnic minority residents in the UK (54.7%) and is the most ethnically diverse borough in the country, with large Asian-Indian, Black-Caribbean, Black-African, Irish and refugee communities. Within our primary and secondary schools, the percentage of children of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) origin is 74%. No fewer than 59 of our 73 primary and secondary schools have a BME majority school population.
- 7.2 In some parts of the Borough parents and carers have limited access and choice of school places. Prioritisation of PCP investment will enable those areas to be prioritised thus helping address any imbalances in the incidence and opportunity of choice.
- 7.3 The Education Act 2006 further enables the Council to explore how choice and diversity can be increased particularly in its role as commissioner of school places.

8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 There are none for the immediate purpose of this report.

Background Papers

- i) Primary Capital Programme *Strategy for Change*
- ii) Transforming Brent Education
- iii) Every Child Matters (ECM): Primary Capital Programme DMT Meeting 17th November 2007
- iv) School Roll Projections January 2008
- v) Brent Stakeholder Report March 2008
- vi) Primary Capital Programme DCFS Guidance December 2008

Contact Officers

Nitin Parshotam, Head of Asset Management, Children and Families,
Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley Middlesex HA89 7RW.
Tel: 020 8 937 3080. Fax: 020 8 937 3093
Email: Nitin.Parshotam@Brent.Gov.UK

Mustafa Salih, Assistant Director Finance and Performance,
Children and Families, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane,
Wembley Middlesex HA89 7RW.
Tel: 020 8937 3191. Fax: 020 8937 3093
Email: mustafa.salih@Brent.Gov.UK

John Christie
Director of Children and Families

Meeting
Date

Version no.
Date