

2. Decision(s) Recommended

2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve:

- (a) Commencement of the second stage of design development to enable preparation of detailed planning proposals for St Anthony's and St John the Baptist RC Primary Schools based upon their draft design briefs (accessible on line);
- (b) A provisional budget for each school, subject to funding being available in the North Solihull Partnership (NSP) business plan.

3. Background

Progression of the North Solihull Primary Programme

3.1 Cabinet approved an update to the Strategic Plan for North Solihull Primary Programme on the 10 December 2013. Since then Cabinet has accepted the tender for rebuilding Phase 3, Fordbridge and Coleshill Heath Primary Schools and the progression of the next stage of the remodelling proposals for Phase 4A, Windy Arbor and Yorkswood.

St Anthony's and St John the Baptist

3.2 In line with the Strategic Plan, St Anthony's and St John the Baptist will be the next schools to be remodelled, on their existing sites. They are also the final schools to be progressed under this programme. The draft design briefs for each school are available online.

3.3 This report sets out the essential elements of the briefs that will form the basis for moving forward into the second stage of detailed design.

3.4 As these are the final schools within the programme and are now directly linked to the NSP Business Plan contribution of £2.5m (see financial implications), an interim report will be presented to Cabinet ahead of a detailed planning application to ensure that the financial implications are fully aligned.

3.5 A final approval would still be sought from Cabinet following planning approval and procurement prior to start on site.

4. Matters Arising

Project Inception

4.1 The initial stage in the design process began in the Autumn 2012 when a Project Team was established, initially, for the whole of Phase 4, including representatives from the schools, the Council, North Solihull Partnership and the Birmingham RC Diocese. During this stage of work the head teachers, their leadership teams and staff have agreed the vision and design principles that are included within the design briefs for each school.

Vision

4.2 At the heart of each of the design briefs are education led visions for the remodelled St Anthony's and St John the Baptist schools that address their philosophy around teaching and learning and its preferred physical organisation.

Consultation with the Community

4.3 Consultation has focused upon key stakeholders, the RC Diocese, local Members

through the Partnerships consultative arrangements and parents.

- 4.4** These schemes are focused upon their existing sites and as remodelled proposals have not required the same level of exposure as new developments on relocated sites. However, subject to the approval of this report it is proposed that there will be formal community engagement, in line with previous arrangements and prior to the formal planning process.

Project Programme

- 4.5** The project programme is currently geared towards completing the remodelling works in 2016/17.

5. Scrutiny

- 5.1** This report has not been considered by Scrutiny Committee.

6. Implications

6.1 Delivery of the Council's Priorities

The options/proposals in this report will contribute to the delivery of the following Council Priorities:

- **Improve Health and Wellbeing**

The North Solihull Primary Strategic Plan serves to underpin the '**Children's Transformation Programme**' with its focus on the delivery of high quality teaching spaces and the aim to raise standards of education attainment in North Solihull.

- **Build Stronger Communities**

As part of the key programme to '**Invest in Solihull**' the Strategic Plan for the North Solihull Primary Programme remains an integral part of the wider North Solihull Regeneration Programme and reflects the relevant key policy priorities of the Council.

- **Deliver Value**

The specification for the remodelling of these schools, particularly the mechanical and electrical engineering improvements, will be progressed in the context of sustainable and ergonomic solutions. In this context the schools will continue to comply with the Council's '**Carbon Management Programme**'.

6.2 Meeting the duty to involve

- 6.2.1 The building design process for these schools will focus on enabling stakeholders to input at every stage and by a variety of means. When moving to detailed design, staffing resources will be dedicated to engaging with communities and their representatives while ensuring corporate working and effective communication.

6.3 Financial Implications

Scheme Budgets

- 6.3.1 The funding sources for the North Solihull Primary Programme are contained within the Children Services Capital Programme 2014/15, last approved at the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture meeting on the 24 June 2014.

- 6.3.2 The provisional budget is highlighted within Table 2 and totals £3.150m.

Table 2: Scheme Budgets

SMBC Funding	(£m)
NSP Business Plan	2.500
SMBC Capital Programme	0.500
Sub Total	3.000
School Funding	
St Anthony's RC Primary School	0.075
St John the Baptist RC Primary School	0.075
Sub Total	0.150
Phase 4A Total Funding	3.150

- 6.3.3 The NSP contribution is highlighted within the Cabinet approved business plan. However, the funding is subject to the accrual of future land receipts from planned developments and the final approval of the NSP Board. These developments, particularly the schools sites are presently being progressed by the Partnership and will be subject to detailed consultation and planning processes.
- 6.3.4 Given the financial position of the Partnership there is a risk that the total £2.5m required will not be delivered to the Council either in full or in line with the timescale set out at paragraph 4.5 above. Further discussions will be held with the Partnership over the coming months to determine the level and timing of its contribution.
- 6.3.5 The implications of this position will be considered further as part of an interim report back to Cabinet, prior to submission for detailed planning or commencement of the procurement process.
- 6.3.6 The SMBC budget contribution is earmarked from balances within the Children Services Capital Programme and the School Contributions have been presented to and approved by the respective governing bodies.

6.4 Legal Implications

- 6.4.1 Both of these schools are voluntary aided and although they are publicly maintained, their buildings are owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese. A development agreement is required to enable the Council to undertake the remodelling works envisaged. Legal Services will progress this work with the appropriate diocesan advisers.

6.5 Risk Implications

- 6.5.1 The North Solihull Primary Programme is the subject of an independent Risk Register scrutinised and maintained by the Directorate for Governance.
- 6.5.2 There are currently no red risks to report. However, the financial implications and the contribution from NSP will be scrutinised further, pending an interim report to members re affirming this commitment.

6.6 Partner Organisations

- 6.6.1 Key partner organisations, including specifically the Roman Catholic Diocese along with the North Solihull Partnership, will continue to be fully involved and/or suitably informed in the design development of these schemes.

7.	List of Appendices Referred to
7.1	None.
8.	Background Papers Used to Compile this Report
8.1	None.
9.	List of Other Relevant Documents
9.1	None.