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**PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the progress of the Local Authority's bid for additional capital funding and to give an indication of the schools that will benefit from the capital resources received.

**Summary**

2. The Government's aim is to rebuild or substantially refurbish half of the primary school stock nationally, within the next 15 years.
3. Darlington Borough Council, already identified as a pathfinder for capital schemes, has been selected as one of only 41 Authorities to have its Primary Strategy for Change approved for the next two years.
4. The resources identified through the Primary Strategy for Change programme will be augmented by schools' devolved formula capital, and by receipts identified for modernisation, to have the maximum impact on the building stock for Darlington's primary schools and work is planned at 17 schools.
5. As six of the primary schools in Darlington are less than five years old, the funds received mean that well over half of the buildings in the Borough will have been brought up to standard, by the close of the 2010-11 year.

**Recommendation**

6. It is recommended that Members receive the report for information

**Murray Rose,**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers:**

DCSF Press Notice 'New Generation of Primary Schools Get the Green Light' 12.11 2008  
Primary Strategy for Change 2008

George McQueen: Extension 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	Refurbishments will take into account anti-vandalism measures in school buildings.
Health and Well Being	Refurbishment plans will improve health & safety, ventilation and lighting in the schools concerned.
Sustainability	The refurbishment programme will take place with an eye to improving the BREEAM rating of all schools, conserving energy and natural resources.
Diversity	There are no direct diversity issues arising from this report.
Wards Affected	Children living in all wards of the Borough will benefit from the improvements to primary school buildings.
Groups Affected	Children aged 3-11.
Budget and Policy Framework	Capital funding , schools' devolved capital and modernisation funds sum to £12.544M available for 17 schools.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The primary strategy for change is consistent with the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy: providing high quality facilities that support modern approaches to education in schools and lifelong learning.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

7. Darlington has a successful track record of attracting capital funding into the Borough. Major schemes have been undertaken in the last five years to replace or substantially improve buildings for: Firthmoor, St. George's, Alderman Leach, Cockerton, Springfield and Harrowgate Hill primary schools.
8. A successful bid was made in 2007 for the replacement of North Road primary school. The pathfinder status achieved was on the understanding that the design and procurement processes for the project would be innovative and push back the boundaries of existing practice.
9. All 148 Authorities in the country were invited to submit a Primary Strategy for Change to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in Summer 2008. The strategy for change is consistent with the Government's stated intention of rebuilding or replacing half of the country's stock of primary buildings in the next 15 years.

10. 15 Local Authorities did not have their plans approved. A further 92 Authorities will receive ear-marked funding for the 2009/10 year but are required to do further work on their strategies before further funding will be made available. 41 Authorities, including Darlington, had their schemes approved for two years, without reservation.
11. Members have previously been informed of a basic need requirement for additional places, given the rising birth rate and inward migration to the Borough. Approval of the Primary Strategy for Change means that expansion can be carried out at some schools, in addition to general refurbishment and improvement to the facilities available.
12. A list of school projects to be undertaken in the next two years is attached at **Appendix A** to this report. At the time of writing, options and recommendations are being drawn up, with regard to the procurement methodology and the timescale to be applied for the projects identified.

### **Conclusion**

13. Securing additional resources to improve the primary building stock in Darlington is to be welcomed. It will assist with the Borough's aspiration to drive up standards in the primary phase.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

14. No consultation was required in the preparation of this report.