

# 0823 REBUILDING HACKNEY'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS

## The Primary Capital Programme

Your questions answered

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## What is the Primary Capital Programme?

The Primary Capital Programme is a programme introduced by Central Government which will provide funding to invest in Primary School buildings and facilities across the country.

This national programme starts in 2009 and over the next 14 years over 7 billion will be allocated to revamp and remodel 8,000 out of England's 18,000 primary and primary special schools – taking the 900 schools in the worst condition out of use.

The programme's ultimate aim is to ensure that all primary schools are equipped for 21st century learning.

The programme will provide Hackney with funding to refurbish, rebuild or expand some of its primary schools providing first class learning facilities for children across the Borough.

## How will a better building improve education?

Modern and fit for purpose buildings will improve the climate and conditions for learning. This will enable schools to deliver the Every Child Matters agenda by providing a better environment for pupils and teachers and increasing the ability to attract the necessary expertise to meet the requirements for the fuller curriculum. The improved or new buildings will provide modern technology and ICT; modern sports facilities; school kitchens; be sustainable and energy efficient and will help support the focus on personalised learning for every child.

## How does Hackney get the funding?

To enable Hackney to access the funding, the Council and the Learning Trust, together with some Headteachers, representatives from the Voluntary Aided Schools, and local children services, are in the process of developing a document which details what is needed within Hackney Primary schools, how the funding would be used and also how schools have been identified for inclusion in the programme.

When this document is agreed by Central Government funding will be released to enable building work on the schools in Hackney to begin.

## Who has been involved in the process?

The development of this programme for Hackney started at the end of 2006. A large number of individuals and organisations have been involved in the process including: representatives from the Council, from finance, planning, procurement and Children's Services; The Learning Trust, school place planning, school standards, the property and

capital development team and ICT; Headteachers representatives and representatives of the Voluntary Aided schools in the Borough.

## How have decisions been made?

In Hackney the development of the Primary Capital Programme has been based on the following:

1. Building Need: a full survey of each of the school buildings, playgrounds and other facilities has been undertaken. The purpose of the survey was to identify the work needed within each school to provide first class educational facilities.
2. School Place Planning: using information available through local and regional planning authorities the current and future need for school places has been plotted across the Borough. From this information it is clear that the need for Primary School places across the borough will alter over the next few years but it is expected to grow by 2015.
3. Attainment and Performance: the current attainment and performance of each school has been considered to prioritise schools.
4. The affordability and deliverability of schemes identified.

All of the information on the programme has been debated and discussed by the Primary Capital Programme Strategy Group. This group is made up of representatives of the Council, the Learning Trust, Headteacher Representatives and representatives of the Voluntary Aided Schools.

All decisions have been agreed through this group.

## How long is this programme?

The Primary Capital Programme is a 14 year programme of investment. The first funding available will be during the financial year 2009/10.

## How will the programme be paid for?

The money to support the aim is to be provided by Central Government to local authorities as grant. However additional funding will need to be secured through a combination of other funding sources such as local section 106 (planning gain funding) school contributions and funding secured through the disposal of capital assets.

## Will all schools be included in the building programme?

All Hackney Primary schools have been considered for inclusion in this programme and each school has been ranked according to need. There are a number of schools which are already part of large

capital programmes and will therefore not be funded through the Primary Capital Programme funding. It is not possible to include all schools within the programme and so schools that are included will be identified on need and feasibility. At this stage only the first phase (4 years) of the programme have been identified.

## What about special needs schools/pupils?

The special needs schools are part of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Hackney. However the inclusion needs within mainstream schools will be considered as part of this programme.

## How many schools will be shut?

The Council and The Trust are currently focusing on phase one of the programme – the first four years – and no closures are anticipated. The programme will be reviewed on a regular basis taking into consideration the changing nature of education and schools over the 14 year period. The Government's intention is that 20% of schools in the worst condition will be taken out of use or rebuilt.

## When will it happen?

The funding, subject to agreement from Central Government, will start during the financial year 2009/10. Therefore building work is likely to start during 2009/10. Funding from Central Government has only been identified for the first 2 years.

## Will it all happen together?

The Primary Capital Programme is a 14 year programme. The programme will be phased over that period. The first phase will include up to 6 schools and will last approximately 4 years in total.

## How will this programme work with all of the other initiatives?

This programme is central to the The Learning Trust's 5 year vision for Primary and Secondary education in Hackney and is being developed with reference to Building Schools for the Future, Children's Centres and the extended schools provision. It also fits within the borough's emerging regeneration framework.

## When will building work happen to my local school?

If your local school is identified for building work, there will be a process of consultation to ensure that all parents, staff and local residents are aware of the programme, the detail of what will happen

and what to expect. During this process the Learning Trust will ensure that building timetables are available.

## Will school places be lost?

As part of the 14 year strategy there will be a need to reorganise school places to enable better facilities and improved learning environments but there will be no net loss of school places. It is likely that schools will need to be expanded to allow for additional demand.

## Will all of our schools be sold off for housing development?

There may be some land sold for development during the overall programme but the money realised from any sales will be re-invested into the schools premises in the borough.

## How big will the schools become?

In line with Hackney's school place planning principles the desired size of primary schools in the borough is between 1 and 3 forms of entry. The majority of schools will be two forms of entry and a few schools will increase to 3 forms of entry – that is 3 classes each with 30 children. The government publishes guidelines on space requirements for schools buildings and these will be followed as part of any building work.

## How many children will be in each class?

There will be a maximum of 30 children in each class.

## Will children's education be disrupted because of major works?

The Trust will work with your Headteacher and Governors, designers and builders to draw up a plan to minimise disruption to children's education. All parents will be informed of the timetable for major works.

## Will parents have to travel further to take their children to school?

If your school is rebuilt or expanded there will be a process of consultation with parents, staff and local residents, to identify the education choices available to each pupil and to work with parents to secure a smooth transition into the new school.

Any consultation on changing the organisation of schools will require the school travel plan to be reviewed and to ensure schools are within walking distance from home for pupils.