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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People

Question: “Can you confirm that the school expansion programme is on schedule?”

Written Response: Yes, the programme is on schedule.

As you are aware, the Council is undertaking 28 projects in the expansion programme - adding extra classes to 20 primary schools and 1 secondary school; providing extra places for children with special educational needs at 6 more schools; and turning Whitefriars into an all-through school. We are also currently consulting to expand 3 more primary schools.

All 28 school expansion projects are set to accept their extra pupils on time as planned and Targeted Basic Need spending deadlines are set to be met, where they apply.

The Council and our construction partner Keepmoat have a project programme, and as these Cabinet Papers show, we believe the contractor's programme requires more detail and have referred it back for additional certainty. The programme contains a timeline for each project, which includes its own contingencies for delays, should they arise. This is appropriate in all construction projects.

Meanwhile, the central government is rebuilding 7 schools in the borough. The Council is supporting the EFA on these projects. We are told they are on track to complete on time. However, as you are aware, we have no direct control over those rebuilding projects.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People

Question: “Can you confirm that the school expansion programme is on budget?”

**Written
Response:**

Yes, the programme is on budget.

As the School Expansion item in these Cabinet Papers show, the budget for the school expansion programme remains at the agreed level of £89.5 million, which is being provided by central government via the EFA.

Increasing demand for construction across the UK has caused prices in the building industry to rise in recent months. Furthermore, some projects are proving more expensive than expected, while others are proving less expensive than expected. However, the “Agreed Maximum Prices” that Harrow is agreeing with contractors across the school expansion programme indicate that we will deliver this programme within budget. We continue to look for savings on projects wherever possible and schools will continue to use their own funds to pay for extras that are outside our specifications.

The budget and proposed spending continues to be monitored extremely carefully by officers in consultation with Cabinet Members.