

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 20th January 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3030
TITLE:	Twerton Infant School – Replace Prefabricated Pratten Building	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To address condition, health and safety issues at Twerton Infant School by replacing a prefabricated Pratten building (“Pratten”) with a refurbished modular building to accommodate the school nursery.
- 1.2 To improve the school estate and ensure school buildings are fit for purpose and provide safe secure environments.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet members are asked to;

- 2.1 Give full approval to spend £325,000 Schools Capital Maintenance Grant to replace a poor condition Pratten building at Twerton Infant School.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no revenue implications, revenue funding for pupil places is provided by the Department for Education (DfE) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on a per pupil basis.
- 3.2 The DfE currently allocate Schools Capital Maintenance Grant funding to local authorities in order to maintain the school estate.
- 3.3 Schools Capital Maintenance Grant funding of £1,093,560 in 2017/18 has been received from the Department for Education (DfE).
- 3.4 The project will be funded from Schools Capital Maintenance Grant balances held by the Council.

3.5 The project budget identified is in line with current cost estimates and contains project contingency.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

4.2 The Council undertakes to ensure school buildings are fit for purpose and provide safe secure environments.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The poor condition of a prefabricated Pratten building used as a nursery at Twerton Infant school has been identified for a number of years through Condition Surveys. The surveys indicate that the Pratten is blighted by active dry rot. The dry rot is now sufficiently advanced that the building can no longer be maintained and needs to be replaced.

5.2 The Pratten building in question is over 40 years old.

5.3 A full feasibility study has been carried out to establish the best option to replace the building.

5.4 During the feasibility study a Council owned modular building became available as it was required to be removed from another infant school in Bath where it had been accommodating a bulge class.

5.5 The feasibility study then explored the option of transferring the newly available unit to Twerton Infant School with full refurbishment and an extension to meet the space requirement.

5.6 The refurbished and extended unit will provide a large classroom space, toilet and cloakroom facilities, an accessible/staff toilet, a canopied outside play area and ramp access. The refurbished modular unit will link to an existing unit.

5.7 This is the recommended option to replace the poor condition Pratten and will provide the school with a fully refurbished, good condition, slightly larger modular building which will be an asset to the school and the community.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The Council retains the legal responsibility to provide sufficient pupil places in its area.

6.2 The Council undertakes to ensure school buildings are fit for purpose and provide safe and secure environments.

6.3 Schools Capital Maintenance Grant funding is made available to local authorities to address the condition and maintenance needs of the school estate.

6.4 The scheme is required as the dry rot and poor condition of the Pratten at Twerton Infant School is now sufficiently advanced that the building can no longer be maintained and needs to be replaced.

6.5 Refurbishing and re-using a Council owned modular building is considered the best option to replace the poor condition Pratten at Twerton Infant School.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 The feasibility study initially explored options to replace the Pratten with a new or factory refurbished modular building. When the Council owned unit became available, the option to transfer the unit from another school; to refurbish and extend that unit was taken forward as the best option with regard to best value and best use of existing resources.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 A PID was presented to and approved by Divisional Directors on 12th December 2017.

8.2 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted, is supportive of the project and has reviewed this report.

8.3 Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People has visited the school and been briefed on the condition of the Pratten.

8.4 The s151 and Monitoring Officers have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Anne Leach</i>
Background papers	<i>None</i>
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