

**DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08**

Notes on programme categories as set out on attached diagram.

**A. PFI**

Almost all construction work is complete at the nine PFI school sites and the internal and external costs of technical support have been significantly reduced. This allocation is to meet the remaining specialist input in 2007/08, meet the cost of some remaining, relatively modest works which are outside the scope of the contract and meet the cost of any urgent works not covered by the contract, in particular asbestos removal.

**B. WORKS AT POOLWOOD AND WILLOWTREE CHILDREN'S HOMES**

This is council capital funding to improve facilities for the young people in the council's care living at the above residential homes. Some modest improvements have been made in 06/07, using existing budgets, to the ground floor living areas at Poolwood. This funding is intended to refurbish bedroom, bathroom and external areas. It is intended that any balance will be used to carry out the most urgent works at Willowtree which also has significant refurbishment needs, with a further capital bid being made for 08/09 for Willowtree.

**C. DFES ACCESS FUNDING**

Since 1996 the DfES Schools Access Initiative (SAI) has provided grant funding to make mainstream schools more accessible to children with disabilities and special educational needs. By setting down its Accessibility Strategy based upon DfES guidance, Wirral has identified the use of its allocation in a number of ways; including the provision of specialist equipment, building adaptations (accessible toilets, ramping, benching, playgrounds, lighting), contributions to large capital projects and stand alone SAI capital projects such as lift installations.

The 2007/08 allocation will be used to fund similar schemes in order to meet pupil needs-led requirements and to undertake larger projects to meet the strategic plan in Secondary Schools as required by the Disability Discrimination Act including lift installation at Pensby High School for Girls.

**D. BSF ONE SCHOOL PATHFINDER**

This is the DfES current indicative allocation for the Pathfinder one school re-build at Woodchurch High School, as detailed in the Executive Board report at 2.13.

**E.F. DFES AIDED CAPITAL – LEA VCAP**

This is DfES grant provided for works at Aided schools. By agreement with the Roman Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Bodies, this funding is shared on a formulaic bases between the two bodies and a programme of works is agreed between the two Diocesan Bodies and the LEA. This funding is also intended to cover Access works at Aided schools and is in addition to the major capital schemes recently completed at St John Plessington Catholic College and the major schemes nearing completion at St Mary's College, which were successful targeted capital bids.

## **G. TARGETED CAPITAL**

This is the DfES grant detailed at 2.5 in the main report for major schemes at West Kirby Grammar School for Girls and Wirral Grammar School for Boys. Both schemes are on site and this is Year 2 of a three year funding stream.

## **H. I. DFES MODERNISATION GRANT**

This is the main grant and the 07/08 DfES additional allocation which funds the main programme of work set out at R – Z on the attached chart.

## **J. K. DEVOLVED FORMULA CAPITAL**

Devolved Formula Capital gives maintained schools direct funding to help support the Capital needs of their buildings. This funding should be invested in the priorities identified in the schools Asset Management Plan (AMP) and those priorities agreed locally. Devolved amounts can be rolled forward for up to 3 years to enable larger projects to be undertaken. AMP condition surveys are updated regularly by the Facilities Management section and Suitability assessments have been carried out in all schools. The LEA has implemented a more rigorous monitoring of Devolved Formula Capital over the last year which will link to individual schools' development plans.

The amount of schools Devolved Formula Capital is increasing each year and now exceeds, for the first time, the basic "centrally managed" LEA allocation, the school allocations now include an amount previously held in Standards Fund for ICT. The increasing allocations to schools have resulted in more and larger scale projects being undertaken, which in turn is stretching the LEA and council resources available to support these projects.

## **L. CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

The LEA is closely monitored by the consultants appointed by the DfES in respect of Children's Centre capital funding. Currently Wirral is a green light (no concerns) authority, the highest category for programme delivery. The Phase 1 centres are all complete and in full use. Work is proceeding with the nine Phase 2 centres, which range from being under construction to two where at the time of writing this report, final decisions have yet to be made regarding location. Phase 2 also involves the development of a small number of small "satellite" centres, which are currently at the design development phase. The DfES have recently informed LEAs that consideration will be given to extensions of time for some Phase 2 schemes on application and this will be helpful in respect of the small number of schemes still under design development.

## **M. EXTENDED SCHOOLS CAPITAL**

A Capital allocation of £476,931 has been provided to support the Extended Schools programme. This Capital is intended to fund projects which contribute to offering the "core offer" within cluster groups. Small projects to refurbish and improve existing facilities will be the main use of this funding and will be monitored by the Strategic and Officers Groups for extended schools. The current programme is for primary schools with schools submitting bids for appropriate premises works. A number of projects have been agreed, with more in development.

## **N<sub>1</sub> N<sub>2</sub> COUNCIL CAPITAL**

**N<sub>3</sub>**

These capital allocations result from bids to the central council capital fund and provide funding for core Health and Safety, Boiler Renewal, electrical testing, Legionella testing and works and asbestos removal. In many cases this capital is linked to schools' Devolved Formula Capital for specific remedial works. This funding, along with the surplus place removal funding, also allows the LEA to meet the DfES requirement and expectation that DfES Modernisation funding will be used to supplement local capital rather than substitution.

## **O. PLAYING FIELD REFURBISHMENT**

This is the 07/08 element of the programme of works approved by Cabinet on 27.4.2006. This work involves improvements to pitches and other spaces for games and P.E. The funding is part of the capital receipts from the sale of the sites released by the PFI scheme and meets a DfES requirement to invest some of the receipts in improving facilities at other school sites.

In developing the improvement schemes, each of the schools involved is also being provided with a wider site development plan in order for the current works to be seen as investment that can be built on in the future as funding allows.

## **P. CITY LEARNING CENTRE CAPITAL (CLCs)**

This DfES grant is intended to allow the three City Learning Centres, based at Hilbre, Wallasey and Ridgeway High School sites to continue to invest in facilities and equipment to maintain a leading edge position in technology provision. The centre based on the Hilbre site, West Wirral Works, has recently been extended to allow a wider range of activities and larger groups to access the building.

## **Q. COUNCIL CAPITAL – SURPLUS PLACE REMOVAL**

This capital forms a starting point to fund the works, required as a result of proposals which result from the Phase 3 Primary Area Reviews. This funding links with the £500,000 DfES Modernisation Grant shown at Y2. The need to supplement this £750,000 total fund will be dependent upon the decisions yet to be taken as a result of the Phase 3 review, which will be the subject of further reports.

## **R. TARGETED CAPITAL MATCH FUNDING**

In order to receive Targeted Capital allocations the LEA is required to match fund these projects. The success of two bids at Wirral Grammar School for Boys and West Kirby Grammar School for Girls requires a contribution in 2007/08 of £760,638 with a final contribution in 08/09 of £380,000.

## **S. RETENTIONS/06/07 COMMITMENT**

The 2006/07 Modernisation programme was intentionally overprogrammed to permit continuity of project work throughout the financial year. This also includes retentions on old schemes and other commitments to complete projects.

## **T. LOCAL SEED CHALLENGE SCHEME – SECURITY/HEALTH AND SAFETY**

This funding stream was a national initiative running from 2000 to 2004 and one which had proven to be a success with Wirral schools in match funding school based Capital projects.

In 2005/06 the Department took the decision to run a similar local programme using a modest (£150,000) amount from the allocated Modernisation funding. Schools were asked to submit their project details and asked to bid for match funding for their projects with bids assessed by security, insurance and safety advisors. Schools could use Devolved Formula Capital or school donations to match the LEA allocation for "security" type projects. The interest shown by schools was overwhelming. This initiative was repeated in 06/07 and again resulted in investment in security well over double the £150,000 DfES funding. It is proposed to repeat this initiative in 07/08.

#### **U.V.W SURVEYS, FEES, SCHEME DEVELOPMENT**

This funding relates to the updating of survey, Condition and Suitability data, which is a requirement of DfES funding, Capitalised fees to cover some of the staff costs incurred managing the overall programme and individual schemes. The scheme development fees are intended to develop schemes and proposals in anticipation of future funding, for example Primary Building Schools for the Future.

#### **X. ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SCHEMES ON CURRENT PROGRAMME**

These are the 2007/08 allocations to previously approved schemes either currently on-site or in the design stage.

#### **Y. NEW STARTS - PRIMARY INC. SPECIAL**

In the same way schools' Devolved Formula Capital should be used to improve school buildings by capital investment, the LEA's Asset Management Plan is used to target finances to schools where building elements are requiring repair or improvement using DfES Modernisation allocations. A number of projects have been identified to rectify Condition elements needed by schools such as: roofing, window replacements and fire alarm upgrading. Whilst other projects have been identified to address Suitability needs i.e. removal of temporary accommodation, works as a result of the Primary Place review and remodelling teaching areas. Projects have been identified in consultation with headteachers, building surveyors and premises specialists.

In addition to the external fabric to roof, frame and window works, the 07/08 programme includes a number of general electrical and fire alarm schemes. The programme also includes some works related to falling rolls, work to sub-stations on school sites, which is a council responsibility, and work at Liscard where the former secondary school building is likely to require further capital investment to make parts of it more appropriate for primary pupils and deal with maintenance issues in this very large, early 20<sup>th</sup> century building.

One scheme requires a commitment into 08/09, the HORSAs kitchen replacement scheme at Stanton Road Primary School. This is a complicated scheme which will remove the World War 2 kitchen which is in very poor condition and will also deal with the replacement of a glazed corridor in poor condition and through new build and adaptation provide better hall space and allow the removal of a double mobile. This will remove all temporary accommodation from the site. Upon completion of this scheme only two HORSAs kitchens will remain at Overchurch Infant School and Heygarth Primary School and a similar style dining room at Brackenwood Junior School.

This 07/08 programme does not include mobile replacement schemes for Somerville where the units are in poor condition, nor the single unit at Greenleas but it is proposed that full schemes are drawn up, planning approvals obtained and works costed, using part of the

fee allocation at W on the diagram, for prompt implementation when funding can be allocated.

## **Z. NEW STARTS - SECONDARY FUNDING**

As in Primary schools, projects have been identified in the Secondary sector which are Condition led and Suitability projects. Again information contained with the LEA's AMP Policy Statement of priorities is being used for the targeting of these finances.

In addition, as set out in the main report at 2.15, the schemes at Oldershaw and Rock Ferry High are intended to remove temporary and poor quality accommodation, combined with some refurbishment and modest reconfiguration in main buildings, a process which will also remove capacity in the context of the falling secondary roll. The works at Calday are the first phase to address the poor condition of a number of laboratories which are also no longer suitable for the current curriculum and where there are also urgent extensive remedial works to the laboratory floors required due to the floor scree breaking up. Further phased works will be required to other rooms built at the same time with the same floor scree.