

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET - 22 JULY 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the capital funding available to the CYP Department from local and national initiatives and programmes and sets out a draft programme of works in 2010/11 for consideration and approval by Cabinet. The number of new projects is lower than last year due to early national draw down of capital allocations in 2009/10 and coupled with a cautious approach being taken in respect of the capital programme beyond 2010/11. This is due to two factors, 2010/11 is the final year of the current national three year capital funding cycle and allocations for 2011/12 will not be known until October 2010 and secondly the anticipated reduction in capital spending nationally.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The planned CYPD Capital Programme in 2009/10 was £49.7 million. This large programme of work was partially due to the draw down of capital to support the government's fiscal stimulus of the economy and the main construction phase of Wirral's One School Pathfinder at Woodchurch High School, which is a £25 million project.
- 1.2 The proposed programme for 2010/11 is significant at £47 million which includes previously approved funding and schemes. However, there are fewer new projects. This is due to the drawdown of capital finance in 2009/10 and because national funding for schools capital is not known beyond this current financial year. The Comprehensive Spending Review is anticipated in October 2010; it is therefore the intention of CYPD to develop a small number of priority schemes to RIBA stage D, i.e. have the basic scheme development/architectural plans ready so that when capital funding from 2011/12 is known, projects may progress to site more quickly and as resources allow.
This report is also coming to Cabinet later than usual in order to confirm a small number of in-year changes to allocations. The proposed programme also includes an unallocated sum intended to carry forward in 2011/12 as an element of the funding required for Cathcart Street Primary, to be reviewed when 2011/12 capital allocations are known.
- 1.3 In drawing up the draft Capital Programme, CYPD has continued to follow similar strategies for enhancing premises for optimum student learning, community accessibility, safety and security compliance as in previous years. The principles followed are:
 - (i) to undertake projects which support the Council's Primary & Secondary Place Reviews as a result of falling rolls across the Borough, including the removal of temporary accommodation
 - (ii) to undertake projects as identified by Asset Management Plans for both suitability and condition of schools to ensure the integrity of the buildings and to

enable a full range of curriculum activities which are suitable for new technologies etc.

- (iii) to work with other departments of the council to deliver the Strategic Asset Review, particularly in the co-location of services, community use, extended schools services, private, voluntary and independent sector for childcare and in the forward planning for Wirral Waters and other regeneration projects.

2.0 Resources 2010/11

2.1 DFE Devolved Allocations

These capital allocations are made for non DFE specific initiatives. Local authorities are able to identify local school and other childrens priority needs for capital expenditure. The allocations are part grant and part supported borrowing:

- i) Formulaic Modernisation allocation of £2,478,355 for 2010/11, this is a reduced amount due to the partial national 'draw down' of allocations in 2009/10. Included in this allocation is the LA's formulaic allocation for basic need. Community and Foundation schools will benefit from this allocation and is the main source of medium and larger value projects.
- ii) Voluntary Aided LCVAP allocation funds works in Aided Schools as agreed by their Diocesan bodies and the LA. The 2010/11 allocation is £1,456,603 again, a reduced amount following partial 'draw down' in 2009/10.
- iii) Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) is a grant which is given to LA's and Diocesan Bodies which is then devolved to schools as DFC for capital works in excess of £2,000. 2010/11 allocations, which take into account a national 40% 'draw down' in 2009/10, are £2,801,113 for Community and Foundation and Trust schools and £868,769 for Voluntary Aided schools. This funding is allocated to each school on the basis of a lump sum of £18,500 and additional allocations of £63.00 per primary pupil, £94.50 per secondary pupil and £189 for a PRU or pupils attending a special school. The exception is for schools that have, in the last ten years, had 80% or more of the floor area renewed or modernised. These schools will receive a 50% reduction in the above amounts.

2.2 DFE Specific Initiatives and Grants

i) Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

On the 5th July the DFE announced that the BSF programme was to be halted, pending a national review on all aspects of national capital funding for schools. It is anticipated that this review will report in the Autumn of 2010 and that the outcome of this review, together with the Comprehensive Spending Review, will provide information on the resources and structures for schools capital from April 2011

As previously reported to Cabinet, CYPD has identified a number of schools who were included in Phase 1 of the main wave BSF; it was intended that Phase 1 BSF addressed the outcomes of the Secondary Review in Birkenhead, Secondary Special School Review across the borough and Academy proposals. BSF was administered nationally by Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and Phase I Wirral BSF was identified as a national priority. This prioritisation which was produced for BSF will be reviewed when the new capital funding arrangements are announced and will be the subject of a further report.

ii) One School Pathfinder (OSP)

The opening of the new school building at Woodchurch High School is scheduled for September 2010 after 75 weeks construction and is currently on target. This project is unaffected by the current national review of capital. Demolition of the existing school building will take place shortly after. The sports hall and the current Design Technology (DT) block are being retained. The use of the former DT building is still to be finalised but, use by the school's Aspergers Unit, community use and Diploma students is likely. The 2010/11 proposed capital programme includes funding to convert this seven year old block of accommodation into a 'stand alone' facility. Phase 2 of the main OSP project which includes external works, car parks, bus pick-up and sports facilities will be completed by 4th March 2011.

iii) Academies

Academy 1.

Birkenhead High School for Girls attained Academy status in September 2009. Detailed work has been carried out to select a Preferred Bidder to undertake the £11.7m refurbishment and new build project and has been the subject of separate Cabinet reports. Construction work is planned to commence in January 2011 and be completed by July 2013. Due to the nature of the scheme the Academy will take possession of completed elements in a phased handover. The LA is the accountable body for the capital funding from Partnerships for Schools (PfS) for this project, through to completion of the project. The necessary legal framework between the relevant parties is being developed. A funding Agreement is in place from PfS for this project and the capital is additional to the LA's main BSF programme. This project is currently paused as part of the national capital review. A decision on future capital investment is expected in August/September.

Academy 2

On 27th May 2010, Cabinet approved the publication of statutory notices to close the existing Park High School and Rock Ferry High Schools, in order to establish the new Academy 2. The Academy, if approved by the Secretary of State, would be located at both of the current school sites initially, locating to one site at the earliest opportunity. The current Cabinet resolution approves the development of proposals to locate the Academy on the current Park High site.

Cabinet also asked for further investigation on potential new sites in the area and option appraisals are being undertaken. The Park site is part of the Council's PFI scheme, which runs until 2031. The capital element of this proposal is currently paused as part of the national capital review. A decision on future capital investment is expected in August/September.

iv) Primary Capital Programme (PCP) (formerly known as the Primary 'Strategy for Change')

Approval of the LA's Primary Strategy for Change document by the DFE has secured a total of £12,053,348 capital grant. This funding has been allocated to projects at three schools linked to previous phases of the Primary Places Review:

- Park Primary School, Wallasey. Work commenced in February 2010 on the new build on the former school site, resulting from Primary Places Review Phase 3, linked to the closure of the nearby Poulton Primary School. A budget of £5.7m has previously been approved for the 12 classroom primary school plus nursery, state

of the art technology and inspiring external landscaping and play areas. Opening of the new school is expected to be Christmas 2010. This will release the Poulton Primary School site for disposal, which is currently being used to house the school until the new building is ready.

- Our Lady and St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Birkenhead received £448,000 contribution to a four classroom extension, remodelling to the building and external play spaces to accommodate a rising roll. This project was completed in summer 2009.
- Pensby Primary School rebuild following the amalgamation of the former Infant and Junior schools and the closure of Pensby Park Primary School, which resulted from Primary Review Phase 3. Detailed design work is now being undertaken for the new Primary school, linked design consultations are also taking place with staff and governors of Stanley Special School with whom an exciting co-located scheme for the two schools is being developed. Construction of the new Pensby Primary School is anticipated to commence October 2010 with Stanley Special School following in September 2011, both are approximately 12 months construction times.

All the above schemes are subject to separate reports to Cabinet as appropriate.

- In addition, "World War 2 design" HORSA kitchen and dining replacements at Stanton Road Primary and Heygarth Primary Schools have received some PCP funding and are now complete. Overchurch Infants is now the only remaining HORSA kitchen/dining unit in use. Its replacement will require capital from 2011/12 and beyond. It is proposed to undertake initial design development in 2010/11.

The top priority for PCP funding is projects arising from the Primary Places Review. A report on the remaining proposal arising from Phase 5 of the Review in Birkenhead, involving the closure of Cole Street Primary School from September 2011 and the redevelopment of Cathcart Street Primary School, has previously been approved by Cabinet. Until the allocation of PCP funding for 2011/2012 is known, the extent of the redevelopment at Cathcart Street remains to be determined. This is an exciting opportunity to improve primary school provision in this area, and the Cathcart Street redevelopment will seek to maximise the available funding to best advantage. It will also allow the potential re-location of Childrens Centre and Adult Learning provision currently based on the nearby St Laurence's Catholic Primary School site, which closes in August 2010. It is proposed to hold some 2010/11 funding to part fund this scheme until the 2011/12 capital allocation is known.

A report on Phase 6 of the Review has also been approved by Cabinet, for consultation in Autumn 2010 on various options for change in South Wallasey, with potential implications for Kingsway, Riverside and Somerville Primary Schools, as well as at Brentwood Early Years Centre.

- v) Schools Access Initiative of £611,171 for 2010/11. This allocation continues to support the strategic programme for accessibility, projects range from small scale adaptations for specific pupil needs through to large scale adaptations and contributions to major capital schemes. On average the funding supports 30 locations each year to varying degrees. The LA's methodology has been recognised nationally and a new local accessibility auditing exercise which has been called "How cool is your school" in which pupils and staff are actively involved is proving to be both exciting and inspirational.

vi) Quality and Access for all – Early Years Capital (PVI)

This grant is primarily, but not exclusively intended to support capital investment in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) Childcare Sector. Previously, Cabinet approved 50% of the grant to be spent on accommodation renewal schemes for pre-school groups based on school sites in old mobile units and 50% open to all PVI groups to bid against, for various capital investments using DFE criteria. Pre-school groups on school sites which have benefited are:- Stanton Road Primary, Irby Primary, Greasby Infants, Brackenwood Infants and Brookhurst Primary, with 100% replacement accommodation. Recently approved schemes are Great Meols Primary and Gayton Primary. The remaining allocations have been distributed to the PVI sector via small grants to enhance facilities, equipment and external play/learning spaces. This capital stream is the subject of separate reports to Cabinet.

vii) Extended Schools

2010/11 is the last year for funding capital projects which meet or sustain projects to support the “Full Core Offer” of extended services. These projects support before and after school activities, parents and community sessions etc.

The initial 2010/11 allocation from DFE was £301,211. This grant has been the subject of an in-year reduction nationally and further details are awaited. Ahead of further information spending against this grant has been suspended.

viii) Aiming Higher for Disabled Children (AHDC)

A total capital allocation of £840,500 in 09/10 and 10/11 is available for a two year project to deliver facilities and opportunities for short breaks for disabled children, young people and their families. The purpose of the grant is to directly support the local areas short break service plan for transforming their short break service. Extensive consultation has been undertaken and from this a programme of exciting projects has been developed both in local authority ownership, universal service providers, special disability services and charity status facilities. Three rounds of small grants have been managed by the capital working group, alterations to contract carers homes are being progressed and a significant investment scheme at Barnston Dale Outdoor Centre is being developed following detailed discussions with various groups including the executive group and the Wirral Family Consultation Forum. Cabinet has approved the further development of the Barnston Dale Project, which will be the subject of a further Scheme and Estimate report.

ix) Co Location Scheme

CYPD was successful in its bid to the Department for Education for £927,000 of capital money to aid the co-location of Children’s Services. This was reported to Cabinet on 5th November 2009. The Co-location Scheme involved at that time the creation of seven Multi Disciplinary Area Team offices in the borough to be delivered by remodeling or extending existing buildings which for the most part are already involved in delivering services to children, young people and their families. To date work has commenced at Eastway Primary School and Satellite Children Centre, New Brighton Children’s Centre and Seacombe Children’s Centre. In addition an Area Team has been co-located at Ganney’s Meadow Early Years Centre. Further work is planned for existing accommodation alongside Pensby Children’s Centre and this will be the subject of a separate report. The Department is currently discussing the plans for extending the office accommodation currently provided to the Area Team based at Well Lane Primary School and providing office accommodation, as a part of the Birkenhead Academy proposals, on the Academies site for two area teams and a

Social Care Assessment Team. The Department is also considering that in addition to the accommodation outlined in the 5th November report, an Area Team be based in the Delamere Community Centre in Eastham. Discussions are currently taking place with the current users. It is anticipated that the majority of schemes outlined above will be delivered in the Financial Year 2010/11, however the terms of the grant does allow for money to be carried forward into 2011/12 so long as services are being delivered from the sites by September 2011.

x) Playbuilder Programme

The national Playbuilder programme was developed from the former DFE consultation on the National Play Strategy launched in December 2007. The programme aims to offer a variety of freely accessible play facilities targeting the 8 – 13 age range. The criteria for investment are: more places to play, supporting play throughout childhood, playing safely, child-friendly communities, embedding play in local priorities. The two year programme has resulted in a total of £1,129,445 with a 2010/11 allocation of £598,493, the funding is expected to support the development (or redevelopment) of a minimum of 22 play areas across Wirral. Wirral's Parks and Countryside Services, landscape team will be undertaking the design and development of the brief following the consultation process. This programme is subject to separate Cabinet reports. This grant has been “un-ring fenced” in 2010/11 and commitment will be reviewed as part of the overall council capital programme.

xi) City Learning Centres

A continuation of funding of £450,000 is anticipated in 2010/11 to support Wirral's three City Learning Centres. These facilities are ICT and technology rich and are open to all schools, community groups and local businesses.

xii) Targeted Capital for Kitchens

This national initiative is aimed at helping local authorities increase the school meal uptake by capital investment. Wirral has previously reported to Schools Forum a range of schemes which will improve the quality of the food, increase the seating capacity and improve dining environments. A sum of £454,316 has been allocated to Wirral by DFE in 2010/11, this also supports other capital investment via the Primary Capital Programme and modernisation grants by replacing the poor HORSA kitchen facilities in schools.

xiii) Invest to Save – Family Support Capital Fund

The establishment of this Capital Fund of £100,000 under the Prudential Borrowing framework, is linked to a targeted reduction in the number of Looked After Children in residential care and to secure local foster care places. The Capital Fund is intended to fund major adaptations to residential properties and assistive technologies to help young people be looked after in family settings, rather than being placed in residential care.

3.0 Progress of Key Capital Projects 2009/10

Approximately £35 million was spent in the last financial year 2009/10 a record amount for the department including a significant amount (£19m) at Woodchurch High School. In 2009/10 a wide range of architectural design work was carried out by

Technical Services department in collaboration with the CYPD Facilities Management Section, school staff and pupils. This architectural input will result in schemes commencing on site in 2010 such as Pensby Primary School, Gayton Primary and Townfield Primary, these schemes involve varying levels of new build and modernisation work. County and Foundation schools have made significant strides in spending Devolved Formula Capital allocations (£4,565,948) on their schools' asset management priorities and by contributing to larger schemes.

The Horsa kitchen Replacement Programme has been a key feature within the CYPD Capital Programme for several years. 2009/10 saw the completion of two such schemes at Heygarth Primary School and Stanton Road Primary School. The latter scheme was more complex in providing Extended School facilities, replacing temporary mobile accommodation and creating a dedicated Foundation class base.

Work at Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre has been completed after several years of renovation and modernisation. The Centre now boasts en-suite facilities for staff and a conservatory based on the original 1920's design, in addition to earlier accommodation extensions, refurbishment and safety works.

Major projects at Raeburn Primary School, Greenleas Primary, Woodchurch Road Primary have all been completed and pupils and staff are enjoying the newly created learning spaces and facilities for extended school use.

The requirement to deliver Food Technology in Key Stage 3 resulted in DFE Targeted Capital allocations of £1,245,000 for four schools; Kilgarth, Calday Grammar, Wirral Grammar Boys and St Anselm's College. All projects have now been successfully delivered and have created inspiring learning environments for the delivery of this subject.

Capital investment has also taken place to create a new Youth Hub in partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service at Wallasey Fire Station. There has also been investment at Brookfield Childrens Home, to provide a more welcoming, domestic environment. Further investment is planned, using existing resources to enhance and upgrade the facilities for young people at Rosclare, linked to Aiming High Capital.

4.0 Proposed CYPD Capital 2010/11 Programme

The proposed programme is attached as Appendix 1. which shows the elements which make up the proposed departmental programme for 2010/11. The proposed programme comprises basic maintenance works, schemes linked to the Primary Review and a range of national specific initiatives. It is on a reduced scale from the 2009/10 programme. The proposed programme includes holding an unallocated balance, for potential use to part fund works at Cathcart Street Primary School, dependent upon 2011/12 national capital allocations. The Appendix shows 2010/11 funding and proposed new starts. The full programme includes additional resources and projects approved in previous years.

The next three years Comprehensive Spending Review is anticipated in October 2010. Ahead of this announcement on future capital funding, no schemes have been committed for 2011/12 and beyond with the exception of works at Cathcart Street Primary School, linked to the closure of Cole Street Primary. However, a number of priority schemes such as: mobile classroom replacement schemes at St. Georges Primary, Mosslands School, Overchurch Infant HORSA replacement and Somerville Primary will be developed, so that in the event of confirmed funding they will be able

to progress to tender and then construction phase more quickly or they will be able to be submitted as part of a bidding process for capital as opportunities arise. Outcomes of the Primary Places Review process in Birkenhead and Wallasey will determine the extent of works at Cathcart Street Primary and removal/replacement of poor temporary mobile accommodation at Somerville Primary school and any other proposals from the Phase 6 Primary Review, as capital resources allow. Key to the scope and timescales for future works will be national decisions taken in respect of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) as part of the current, national capital review.

4.1 A number of other schemes have been put forward for consideration for inclusion in the programme by schools but have not been prioritised in 2010/11. These include:

- The purchase of a neighbouring site to Hoylake Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, which is up for sale following the re-location of a local business. The school does occupy a limited site, bounded by roads, the railway line and houses, except for this adjoining industrial site and therefore in principle any extension of the site would be highly desirable. However, the indicated purchase price plus the cost of demolition of the existing premises on the site which are unsuitable for school use and the subsequent landscape/groundworks required means that the scheme cannot be afforded within current resources.
- Renewal of old “redgra” sports pitches at Bebington High School and South Wirral High School. These pitches are currently unusable and do not form part of the PFI contract
- Secure link between the two buildings at Poulton Lancelyn Primary School
- A new hall at Dawpool (C of E Aided) Primary School – to be discussed with the Diocese
- A new hall and internal adaptations at Greenleas Primary School
- Further internal and external refurbishment to the Walker Building at Calday Grange Grammar School
- Accommodation works at St Anselm’s College, ahead of main BSF
- Rationalisation of the Devonshire Park Primary School accommodation
- Single mobile replacement at Grove Street Primary School
- Rationalisation of Lingham Primary School accommodation
- Additional room at Town Lane Infant School
- Accommodation re-modelling at Ladymount Catholic Primary School – to be discussed with Diocese
- The purchase of the former Christian Brothers house on the St Anselm’s School site – to be the subject of further discussion with the school and the Diocese.

All of these schemes will be the subject of further discussions with the schools in respect of future programmes of work.

5.0 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 The uncertainty of capital allocations is the main risk within the CYPD capital programme. The programme reflects a cautious approach to this risk and no monies have been formally committed beyond the current financial year, with the exception of a sum held unallocated towards Cathcart Street Primary School pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- 5.2 Economic pressures have had an impact on local and national contractors engaged in construction contracts. The department continues to use Council procurement rules to in contracting works.
- 5.3 The DFE have indicated mid year reductions against the following previously notified capital allocations for 2010/11:

Youth Capital

14-19/Special

Extended Schools Capital

High Performing Specialist Schools Capital

Harnessing Technology Grant

Further details are awaited from the DFE. In the interim, no further commitments are being made against these funding streams.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The capital programme reflects previously allocated funding by DFE as set out in the 3-year Comprehensive Spending Review and individual initiatives and schemes. And identifies recent DFE budget adjustment for 2010/11.
- 6.2 Total allocation for the 2010/11 capital programme is in the region of £43 million however, due to the high value and longer construction period of some projects the spend profile will stretch to more than one financial year e.g. Birkenhead High School for Girls Academy. These are shown on the chart in Appendix 1. Initial allocations to schemes are estimates subject to detailed design development and tender prices received. Regular reports by the Director Finance will record the spend profiles.

7.0 Staffing Implications

- 7.1 The lower value maintenance schemes will be project managed by staff in the Children and Young People's Department who work with the majority of schools under a Service Level Agreement, with all other non-PFI works being developed and managed by the Director of Technical Services unless an alternative architect is specifically requested by schools, where schools are contributing Devolved Funding.

8.0 Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

- 8.1 All the projects listed in this report will, where appropriate to the scheme, take full account of the needs of all pupils and other building users and enhance facilities where possible as part of the works.

9.0 Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 A number of the projects listed will directly enhance the safety of the school premises and helping meet safeguarding issues. The removal of detached buildings and

upgrading fire, security and building access points will reduce the risk of damage, property loss and enhance the communities they serve. All new builds will be discussed with the appointed architectural liaison officer.

10.0 Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 10.1 A number of the projects listed will allow better use of existing premises, reduced energy costs and in some cases remove old, ineffective premises from use.
- 10.2 All materials used will meet the Council's approved list and follow sustainable purchasing routes.
- 10.3 All new builds will achieve a "very good" or "excellent" BREEAM rating.

11.0 Planning Implications

- 11.1 All necessary planning permissions will be obtained by the Director of Technical Services. Any proposed development will be assessed having regard to relevant planning policies and any other material considerations, including national Planning Policy Statements and the adopted Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

12.0 Anti-poverty Implications

- 12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 Social Inclusion Implications

- 13.1 All major schemes will monitor the use of local labour and employing long term unemployed.

14.0 Local Member Support Implications

- 14.1 The DFE and other funding set out in this report are applicable to all Community, Foundation and Aided schools in all Council wards.

15.0 Background Papers

DFE and CYPD working papers held in the Children and Young People's Department.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

- (1) the draft 2010/11 departmental Capital Programme be approved;
- (2) the various grant and local capital funding sources be noted;
- (3) individual schemes be the subject of further option reports and scheme and estimate reports, where applicable;
- (4) that a further report on capital investment be brought to Cabinet when the outcome of the 2011-15 Comprehensive Spending Review and the national review of capital investment in schools is known, in Autumn 2010.

**Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services**