

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 28 MAY 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS CAPITAL FUNDING 2009/10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the capital funding available under a number of local and national initiatives and programmes and sets out a draft programme of works in 2009/10 for consideration by Cabinet. The report also provides an update on the progress of major schemes currently being undertaken and a summary of schemes completed during the 2008/09 financial year. Due to steps taken by central Government to kick start the economy a significant amount of capital funding has potentially been brought forward to this financial year, resulting in a larger than normal programme of work.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In 2000, the then DfES introduced requirements for all LEAs to produce an Asset Management Plan (AMP) and a Statement of Priorities in respect of school premises works. The DCSF no longer require submissions of Asset Management Plans but the intention is to continue to use the former DfES approved Statement of Priorities and updated Condition and Suitability data on school premises as a guidance document for future capital programmes, including 2009/10. However, the recent introduction of the DCSF's "Primary Strategy for Change" strategy and the Building Schools for the Future programme are likely to increasingly inform future capital planning.
- 1.2 The majority of the draft programme relates to work in schools but also includes proposals for other premises, for example the Outdoor Centre. In putting forward schemes for approval, the principles of the Councils Asset Management Strategy have been applied, in particular:
- The need to reduce the quantity of accommodation in line with demand/need, for example pupil numbers;
 - The ongoing programme to remove temporary accommodation, for example the removal of mobile classrooms;
 - The need to replace poor quality accommodation where long term need has been identified, for example the HORSAs kitchen replacement programme;
 - The need to upgrade poor quality accommodation, using the DCSF criteria of Condition, Sufficiency and Suitability, where long term need has been identified;
 - The need to continue to upgrade premises in respect of compliance with relevant legislation and the security of staff and other building users, and continued improvement in environmental performance.
- 1.3 In doing so, the programme supports the council's key priority of improving the council's land and assets. The draft programme is intended to also continue the strategy of managing the schools and other assets to meet current and future needs, ensure value for money, whilst at the same time retain sufficient flexibility, for example in respect of parental choice. The programme also supports the continued development of Extended Schools, Co-location of services, Community Use and links

with service provision and locations with the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector.

- 1.4 The Council has received DCSF allocations for funding capital work in 2009/10 in the region of £32,000,000 excluding allocations for the One School Pathfinder at Woodchurch High School (£19,510,185 in 2009/10) and Birkenhead High School Academy (£11,770,000) this amount includes an advance drawdown of allocations from 2010/11 of £4,531,000. In order to explain the detail of these allocations we have provided a brief overview of the various funding streams and given examples of likely expenditure.
- 1.5 The report highlights recent completions of projects undertaken in the last 12 months, this years significant project allocations and the progress with some of the departments' major Capital schemes which are underway.

2.0 DCSF Devolved Allocations

- 2.1 Formulaic Modernisation allocation of £4,878,356 for 2009/10, this is an increased amount due to the partial "draw down" of Modernisation allocations for 2010/11 to allow more work to be undertaken this year as part of the governments drive for economic growth. All LA's now receive a formulaic allocation for basic need, replacing the previous annual bidding process, this particular allocation is £923,667 for 2009/10.
- 2.2 The figures set out above represent those grants provided directly to the LA. In addition, in 2009/10 £6,269,230 will be provided as grant for delegation to Community and Foundation schools as Devolved Formula Capital, this includes a national 40% draw down from 2010/11 allocations. A further £1,974,193 has been allocated to Aided Schools including the 40% 2010/11 draw down.
- 2.3 The above DCSF allocations are part grant and part supported borrowing. In addition a further DCSF grant of £1,974,193 has been made to the Voluntary Aided LCVAP programme to fund works in Aided schools agreed with the two Diocesan Bodies and the LA. Again this has increased this year due to a draw down of 2010/11 allocations. This funding also covers the cost of school access works in Aided schools
- 2.4 Arrangements for the distribution of allocations of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) to schools changed in 2008/09 whereby DCSF introduced two bands of DFC allocation. The Higher band is given to those schools that have not had major refurbishment of their premises. 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 £189.00 for a PRU or special school pupil. The Lower or standard allocation is allocated to those schools where in the last ten years, 80% or more of the floor area has been renewed or modernised. The funding will be allocated to these schools on the basis of a lump sum of £9,250 and additional allocations of £31.50 per primary pupil, £47.25 per secondary pupil and £94.50 for a PRU pupil or special school pupil (i.e. a 50% rate). Pupils in mainstream schools with statements no longer receive additional resource. The DCSF expect any specific additional needs to be met from the Schools Access Initiative funding.

3.0 DCSF Specific Initiatives/Grants

3.1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF)

Cabinet has been kept informed as to the progress with the main wave Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme with the most recent report being presented on 27th November 2008, which sought Cabinet approval of Wirral's Expression of Interest to bring forward its entry into BSF main wave. Wirral was notified in March 2009 that provided that its readiness to deliver met DCSF criteria, then entry could be expected for phase one projects to commence from 2011/12. Discussions are continuing with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) who are managing the BSF Programme on behalf of DCSF with particular focus on the creation of a boys only Academy in Birkenhead (subject to approval) being funded at an earlier point than the grouped BSF projects, with the possibility of the scheme being managed along side the already approved Birkenhead High School for Girls Academy. This will be the subject of future reports, once details and decisions are received from PfS.

3.2 BSF - One School Pathfinder

Construction work started at Woodchurch High School in March and initial indications are that the project is progressing well and to schedule. On going consultations with the Neighbourhood Management Board are continuing and an open day was held on 8th May to which neighbours were invited, this formed part of an "open day" for staff, pupils and other officers to look at the architectural drawings, on going design processes and other updates on the construction progress. This event was also linked to the promotion of new curriculum opportunities such as Diplomas and apprenticeships.

3.3 DCSF Primary "Strategy for Change"

Following a consultation period in 2006, DCSF announced details of the Primary national Strategy for Change Programme in December 2007.

The Authority was required by DCSF to produce a Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC) document, showing how capital investment would support strategic aims. The outcome of this submission was good and the first allocation of funding was released (£4,837,674). In order to get approval for the remaining allocation (£7,215,674) a further submission of information was requested and this has been submitted to DCSF.

The schemes allocated to this funding which result from earlier Primary Review Phases are: Park Primary School, Wallasey which will see the build of a new school on the Park Primary site, anticipated completion is early 2011; Pensby Primary School which will rebuild the school on the existing school site, anticipated completion late 2011 and thirdly a smaller scale proposed remodelling and additional space to be created at Our Lady & St Edwards' Primary School, Birkenhead. The above schemes are subject to separate reports to Cabinet as appropriate.

3.4 Primary Review Process:

The review of Primary Places continues the proposed and options for consultation in Phase 5 report are being presented to Cabinet on 28 May 2009. This review methodology has resulted in Capital allocations to those schools being impacted upon by either amalgamation or closure. This has enabled the Department to meet any building requirements in an affordable and controlled manner within the overall Capital programme. Works are currently underway to undertake works in neighbouring schools as a result of the closure of Arrowe Hill Primary School (Phase 4).

3.5 Falling Rolls

Planning for Secondary BSF, Primary Capital Programme and the other capital works which are the subject of this report require consideration to be given to the demographic trends in primary and secondary. The situation in the primary sector has been the subject of reports to Cabinet over five years and a programme of area reviews – currently in year five – is underway to review primary provision and bring forward proposals to achieve a better match between pupil numbers and capacity. Similar reviews are being undertaken in both Secondary and Special School sectors.

Primary numbers are projected as:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
24268	23847	23629	23838	23795	23921	23998	24177

Actuals are as at January 2009 Census. Figures exclude Foundation 1 (nursery) pupils and Special Schools. 2010 to 2014 projections include Birkenhead High Academy for Girls.

Secondary numbers are projected as:

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
23588	23066	22703	22600	22114	21636	21244	20774

Actuals are as at January 2009 Census. Figures do not include: over 16's in schools without a sixth form, under 11's, sixth form pupils aged 19 and above or Special Schools. 2010 to 2014 projections include Birkenhead High Academy for Girls.

- 3.6 School Access Initiative allocation of £611,171 for 2009/10. This will allow the continuation of the strategic programme of works, which range from small scale adaptations for specific pupil needs through to large scale lift provision and contributions to major capital projects. This methodology has proved to provide good value for money when linking accessibility works to other projects. From 2001 – 2009 CYPD has increased the number of accessible Primary schools from 43 to 75, Secondary Schools from 6 to 18 and Special Schools from 5 to 12.

3.7 Quality and access for all – Early Years Capital (PVI)

Cabinet was informed of a new DCSF Early Years Capital funding stream on 16 October 2008. The grant is primarily, but not exhaustively intended to support capital investment in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. Cabinet approved that for 2008/9 and 2009/10 approximately 50% of the grant would be spent on accommodation renewal schemes based on school sites and 50% open to all PVI groups to bid against, using DCSF criteria. The 2009/10 sites which have been identified as requiring significant investment are Stanton Road, Irby Primary and Greasby Infants; Cabinet is asked to approve these schemes within the second year of grant.

The previously approved 2008/09 schemes at Brackenwood Infants and Brookhurst Primary are progressing well with completion anticipated by Autumn 2009 at both sites.

3.8 Extended Schools

This DCSF initiative is in its fifth year, although capital projects were slow to be developed in the early years of the initiative. In 2008/09 a total of 24 capital schemes were completed and ranged from refurbishment of existing internal spaces, new build and development of external environments which will help deliver the extended

schools agenda. Bids have been received from schools for this years allocation of £582,778 and these will be judged using DCSF criteria for extended schools service provision.

3.9 Targeted Capital 14-19/SEN

It is likely that the outcome of the consultation around Special education will identify the schemes to be funded from this allocation and will be the subject of a further Cabinet paper and alongside consideration of capital investment needs for the 14-19 curriculum.

3.10 Aiming Higher for Disabled Children

Funding was announced for two years £252,200 (2009/10) and £588,500 (2010/11) to invest in facilities which will extend the opportunities for short breaks for disabled children young people and their families in Wirral. Consultation with users and their families is underway along with assessment of current facilities both in local authority ownership, universal service providers, special disability services and charity status facilities. The emphasis is on partnership working in order to ensure that short break provision is readily available. The capital investment will be the subject of a future report.

3.11 Youth Capital

Following the Cabinet report on 6 November 2008, when consideration was given to the creation of four "super centres", a Capital scheme has been developed for Mill Lane Fire Station in partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. At this point in time other projects at other locations are still to be identified. The scheme was approved at Cabinet on 23rd April 2009.

3.12 Other Capital Allocations

Additional resources from the council's PPM programme will support the schools capital programme in respect of basic Health and Safety works, boiler renewal works, work to Children's Homes and surplus place removal in the primary sector. This local funding also demonstrates to the DCSF that national grant is being used alongside council capital funding.

4.0 Progress of Key Capital Projects 2008/09

West Kirby Grammar School

2008 saw the completion of phase 3 of the Targeted Capital project to construct an eight classroom teaching block, common room, office and careers room. The total scheme cost across the three phases was £3.6m, with this project removing all temporary accommodation at the school, allowing better organisation of departments and improving the appearance of the site.

Wirral Grammar School for Boys

A similar Targeted Capital scheme (£3.9m) has been completed and has replaced mobile accommodation with new specialist technology and other teaching facilities. This project has removed all temporary accommodation from the site and allowed improvements to ICT and Access.

Pensby High School for Girls

Work commenced in January 2008 to build new humanities and IT facilities at the school, project value £1.2m, the scheme also developed the external dining area. Completion date was in Autumn 2008.

Oldershaw

Work was completed on a major project which saw the removal of temporary and unsuitable accommodation and the building of sixth form rooms and redesigned entrance. Completion date is May 2009.

Further Children's Centres have been now been completed, these are located at:

Millfields Primary School
Holy Trinity Primary School
Town Lane Infant School
Prenton Primary School
Black Horse Hill, West Kirby
Grove Street Primary
Christchurch C.E Primary, Birkenhead
Pensby Park

Satellite Children's Centres

Beechwood (Manor Primary School);
New Brighton Primary School
Bedford Drive Primary
Lingham Primary (completed)
Eastway Primary (completed)

The proposed Phase 3 Children's Centre schemes are being discussed and will include further works to earlier phased schemes due to changes in service and demands of facilities etc. This will be subject of a further report to Cabinet.

Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre

A series of capital works have been undertaken utilising NOF allocations and Council capital to improve teacher and student accommodation, accessible facilities for young people, roofing, extension to the main building and external works. Further works to the original main house are in progress following allocations in 2008/09 along with external safety works to the bridge and grounds. These are the subject of a separate Cabinet report.

5.0 School Capital 2009/10 Programme

The proposed programme is attached as Appendix 1. The diagram shows the elements which make up the proposed departmental programme for 2009/10. Priorities are drawn from the Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency data held by the LA as part of the Asset Management Plan process and the various school review processes. This information is set into the local knowledge and context of each school to "join up" funding streams where possible including school managed capital and revenue and to link work programmes with other initiatives and decisions where possible. It also takes account of the position in respect of pupil numbers outlined above.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Cabinet approved the Children and Young People's Capital Programme for 2009-12 on 10th December 2008, for 2009-10 this totalled £39,927,000. Since agreeing this

programme additional resources have been received in the following areas: advanced draw-down £4,531,625, Play Builder Scheme £530,952, Play Lottery £200,088, Academy allocation £11,770,000 and Practical Cooking £1,245,000. These allocations will be built into the revised CYP Programme. In 2009/10 the programme will be in the region of £45.8million. Initial allocations to schemes are estimates subject to detailed design development.

7.0 Staffing Implications

7.1 The lower value repair schemes will be carried out by staff in the Children and Young People's Department, with all other non PFI works being developed and managed by the Director of Technical Services. The volume of works and the overall value are likely to result in demands which exceed the staff resources currently available within the council.

8.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

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 Human Rights Implications

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

10.0 Local Agenda 21 Statement

10.1 A number of the projects listed will allow better use of existing premises, reduced energy costs and in some cases remove old, inefficient premises from use. All materials used will comply with the council's Agenda 21 principles.

10.2 The development of a local Seed Challenge scheme for Energy Conservation works will support environmental targets.

11.0 Community Safety Implications

11.1 A number of the projects listed will enhance the safety of school premises for example with improved window and door closing mechanisms, enhanced lighting, removal of detached buildings and will make schools more welcoming to the communities they serve.

11.2 The proposed continuation of a 'local' Seed Challenge scheme with a focus on school security will make a direct contribution to Community Safety.

12.0 Planning Implications

12.1 All necessary planning approvals will be obtained by the Director of Technical Services. Any proposed development will be assessed against national, regional and local planning policies including the Regional Spatial Strategy, Wirral Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Interim Policy for New Housing Development.

13.0 Anti-Poverty Implications

13.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

14.0 Social Inclusion Implications

14.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

15.0 Local Member Support Implications

15.1 The DCSF and other funding set out in this report are applicable to all Community, Foundation and Aided schools.

16.0 Background Papers

16.1 DCSF allocation letters to the LA

- DCSF guidance on Condition and Modernisation funding and Targeted Capital allocations.
- LA Asset Management Plan, LEA Statement of Priorities.
- Working files held by the LA including Condition surveys of premises and school Suitability assessments, Targeted Capital bids and land disposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) that the draft 2009/10 departmental Capital Programme be approved;
- ii) that the various grant and local capital funding sources be noted;
- iii) that individual schemes be the subject of further option reports and scheme and estimate reports where applicable;
- iv) that the approval is given to progress schemes at Stanton Road, Irby Primary and Greasby Infant Schools using the Early Years Quality and Access grant, as set out in paragraph 3.7.

Howard Cooper
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