

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 26 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2015/16

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2015/16 for the Children & Enterprise Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the capital funding available for 2015/16 is noted;
- 2) the proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account are approved;
- 3) the proposals for Halebank Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School are approved;
- 4) the proposals for Fairfield Primary School are approved; and
- 5) the report is submitted to Full Council for approval of the Capital Programme 2015/16.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In February 2015 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2015/16. The table below details the funding received.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,097,187

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£858,851
Devolved Formula Capital – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated directly to Local Authority maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£246,343
Devolved Formula Capital – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated directly to Voluntary Aided maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£165,161
LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING	
Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding In addition to the funding outlined above, the Local Authority makes a contribution towards capital works in schools (funding to be confirmed).	£345,821

4.0 School Condition Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding.

4.1 The table below details how the School Condition and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding will be allocated.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Computer Aided Design Plans	£5,000	Used to update plans of school buildings where improvement works have been carried out.
Fire Compartmentation	£25,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings.
Asbestos Management	£20,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Access Initiative Projects	£70,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
School Modernisation Projects	£400,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve educational and school buildings development.
Contingency	£70,000	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Fairfield Primary School	£125,000	Contribution to remodelling and extension works.
Halebank CE Primary School	£20,000	Contribution to new build costs.
Capital Repairs	£843,008	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2015/16 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,578,008	

Schools are required to make a contribution to the cost of capital repair works. It is estimated this contribution will be in the region of £40,000 based on current budget costs for the works. In addition a further £95,000 will be carried forward from 2014/15 as a contribution to the capital repairs programme 2015/16.

5.0 Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

5.1 Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is included in the Department for Education's Priority School Building Programme – a national, privately financed programme to address those schools in the worst building condition.

5.2 The Education Funding Agency, acting on behalf of the Department for Education, announced earlier this year the appointment of Morgan Sindall as the contractor to build the northwest batch of schools in the Programme. It is anticipated the project to rebuild Halebank CE Primary School will commence on site June, 2015 with a completion of April, 2016.

5.3 Whilst some furniture is to be transferred and re-used in the new school, in order to assist the school transfer into the new building, some new furniture and equipment will be required to be compatible with the new school design and layout. In particular new interactive whiteboards will be required. An amount of £20,000 is required.

6.0 Fairfield Primary School.

6.1 In January 2014 Fairfield Junior School was expanded to allow the integration of the Infants School to form the Fairfield Primary School. The primary school will continue to operate in two separate buildings and as a consequence a number of improvements are required to address building and organisational issues at the newly combined primary school. A feasibility

study has been carried out for the building improvements and the project is about to progress to detailed design stage with a view to a commencement of works in 2016.

- 6.2 £1,400,000 Basic Need funding has already been approved to contribute towards the cost of the building improvements (Executive Board minute no.43 refers). However a range of further capital will be required to meet the full cost of all the works and therefore £250,000 capital funding is required as a contribution. It is proposed £125,000 is allocated from School Condition Allocation 15/16 and a further £125,000 from 16/17 allocation.
- 6.3 In addition a further £400,000 funding will be derived from the sale of land at the former Fairfield High School and together with Access Initiative funding and a contribution from the school, the total funding available is £2,115,000. At this early stage of the design of the project the estimated build cost is £2,135,748. Actual build cost will be confirmed when tenders have been invited for the works later in the year. It will be necessary for the works to be carried out in three phases commencing early 2016 so therefore costs will be reviewed against affordability at each key stage of the project.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The amount of funding available for 2015/16 is less than in previous years reflecting both the reduction in the number of schools due to Academy transfers and the overall condition of school buildings. The School Condition Allocation for 2015/16 is £1,097,187 compared to £1,344,456 in 2014/15. Similarly, the CERA funding has been reduced from £431,330 to £345,821.
- 8.2 With regard to Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, the scheme is a PFI scheme and the school will be required to provide an annual contribution of circa £10,000 for the provision of hard facilities management, which is slight decrease from that previously reported to the Executive Board of circa £12,000.

9.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 **Capital repairs programme**
This will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

The Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

10.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

N/A.

10.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

10.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

10.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

11.0 RISK ANALYSIS

11.1 Capital Repairs

It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of works. This consultation with schools has yet to take place therefore if schools are not willing to contribute these projects will not be carried out in 2015/16. In the event that schools are unable to contribute towards the cost of the works when completed, an element of the contingency budget can be used for this purpose. The school would then be required to make their contribution in the next financial year.

12.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

12.1 The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to improve the accessibility of mainstream schools for pupils with disabilities and the wider community. Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.

13.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

13.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

14.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14.1 Not applicable.

15.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

15.1 Capital Programmes for 2015/16 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2015.

16.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcements – DfE 09/02/2015.	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove