

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 28th January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2010/2011

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2010/11 for Children & Young People’s Directorate (CYPD).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) To note the capital funding available for 2010/11 including those programmes where funding has been carried forward;
- 2) To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the Capital Programme 2010/11.
- 3) To note the Revenue implications associated with the Big Lottery Fund

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The capital funding allocation for 2010/11 is outlined below.

TYPE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2010/11)
Schools Capital Allocation (Supported Borrowing)	£514,083 *
Schools Capital Allocation (Grant)	£490,570*
LA contribution to repairs from CERA revenue (to be confirmed)	£431,330
Estimated School Contributions	£184,738
Access Initiative (Supported Borrowing)	£197,999
Children’s Centre Capital 2009/10 Carry Forward (Estimated) Grant	564,347
Children’s Centre Capital Grant	£49,661
Early Years Capital 2009-10 Carry Forward (Estimated) Grant	£532,441
2010/11 Early Years Childcare Capital Grant	£545,573
Playbuilder Capital Grant	£437,885
Primary Capital 2009-10 Carry Forward (Estimated) Grant	£750,000

TYPE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2010/11)
2010/11 Primary Capital Programme Grant	£1,128,000
Extended Schools Capital 2009/10 Carry Forward Grant	£226,136
2010/11 Extended Schools Capital Grant	£116,880
Harnessing Technologies 2009/10 Carry Forward (Estimated) Grant	£388,968
2010/11 Harnessing Technologies Capital Grant	£470,009
Big Lottery MyPlace Grant 2009/10 Carry Forward (Estimated)	£1,651,482
Total:	£8,680,102

* In November 2006 the DCSF approved an advance of £700,000 from schools capital funding allocation for the extension and remodelling works at Brookfield's and Cavendish Schools. The advance will be deducted by reducing the capital grant over the period 2008-2011. In addition in November 2009 the DCSF approved a further advance of £500,000 from 2010/11 schools capital grant funding as an initiative to stimulate the economy. The schools capital grant allocation above of £490,570 is the net allocation after the return of the third and final advance payment of £233,333 and the £500,000 accelerated capital grant advance.

3.2 Overview of Schools Capital Programme 2010/11.

It is proposed the Schools Capital and Local Authority revenue allocations fund the following works. See Appendix 1.

1. Property Services carry out an annual detailed survey of all schools which identify the key capital repairs requirements. This information is then prioritised through use of a condition score matrix which takes into account the following factors: likelihood of occurrence, impact on school, impact on building fabric, health and safety and school repair strategy.

The matrix has been agreed by the Asset Management Steering Group which is a group consisting of Head teacher representatives from primary, secondary and special schools, representatives from the Dioceses of Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Chester and officers of Property Services and the Children and Young People Directorate.

2. The detailed capital repairs programme for 2010/11 is identified in Appendix 2. The costs shown against each project are currently provisional. An allowance has also been made to cover the payment of retentions for works carried out from 2009/10 programme. Based on these estimated costs it is likely that all projects can be funded in 2010/11 however should the costs following receipt of tenders be less than the

estimated costs further projects will be brought forward from the reserve list. However if the costs exceed the total funding available once final costs have been obtained the lowest scoring projects (lowest priority) will be deferred to 2011/12.

3. Following the approval by the DCSF of Halton's Primary Capital Strategy a capital allocation for the Primary Capital Programme (£3.0m in 2009/10 and £5.378m in 2010/11) has been provided. In order to maximise development opportunities and to provide added impact to the Primary Capital Programme it will necessary to join with other eligible capital funding. It is therefore necessary to make a contribution of £637,000 from the Schools Capital Programme 2010/11 towards the proposals in the Primary Capital Programme (as detailed below in paragraph 8.0).
4. A contingency fund is also retained from this fund. This is used to cover the costs of emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year of a capital nature.
5. Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 – in 2009/10 the updating of all school asbestos surveys was carried out. In order to ensure a robust asbestos management system is in place it is necessary for each survey to be updated annually which will form part of the asbestos management plan for school buildings. (Costs to be funded from CERA revenue).
6. School Development Planning – in 2009/10 twelve community primary schools had a school development plan produced which represented how school buildings could be transformed over a period of time taking into account the condition, suitability and sufficiency shortcomings of buildings, aspirations of schools and linking with the strategic vision for primary schools in Halton. To continue with this work and produce school development plans for the remaining community primary schools capital funding needs to be allocated of £88,800. A further sum of £50,000 is to be allocated for potential projects arising from the school development plans which will link with other capital programmes. (Costs to be funded from CERA revenue).
7. Special Educational Needs Review – a review has been undertaken in order to provide flexible provision for pupils with special educational needs within mainstream schools. It is anticipated adaptation work will be required to some school buildings. Funding of £50,000 is to be allocated.
8. Other commitments from this fund are:
 - AutoCAD plans have been produced detailing the layout and schedule of accommodation for all school buildings and will enable their use by schools in relation to asset management. It will be necessary to maintain up to date plans for all schools where building improvement works have been carried out. (Costs to be funded from CERA revenue).

- A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in consortia type school buildings as a preventative measure against the risk of fire. To continue with this work it is essential to allocate funds to this programme.

4.0 ACCESS INITIATIVE FUNDING 2010/11

Funding of £197,999 has been allocated by the DCSF to address access issues within school curriculum and buildings. A contribution of £100,000 is to be allocated to the All Saints Upton CE Primary School Primary Capital Programme project. Schools will be invited to submit bids for the remaining funding in April 2010 with bids assessed against agreed criteria.

5.0 EARLY YEARS CHILDRENS CENTRE CAPITAL 2010/11

Funding of £49,661 has been allocated by the DCSF to recognise that existing childrens centres may now require enhancement. It is proposed to carry out works to Warrington Road Childrens Centre in order to integrate PCT services with childrens centre services.

Childrens Centre Capital funding from Phase 2 and 3 has been carried forward (£564,347 estimated) – see Appendix 1. The projects identified to be carried out are the enhancement of childrens centre facilities in the Windmill Hill area by extending and remodelling the Windmill Hill Play Centre building (£303,414). The funding is also contributing to the All Saints Upton CE Primary School project to recognise that childrens centre facilities will be replaced and enhanced as part of the Primary Capital project (£260,933).

6.0 EARLY YEARS CHILDCARE CAPITAL 2010/11

Childcare Capital funding of £532,441 has been carried forward from 2009/10 as indicated in Appendix 1. Further Childcare Capital funding of £545,573 has been allocated in 2010/11 by the DCSF to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent early years and childcare settings. Bids will be invited from settings and will be assessed against the aims of the grant:

- To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities and ICT resources.
- To ensure all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision.
- To enable private, voluntary and independent providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

A further report detailing bids received and proposed works will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval.

In order to maximise development opportunities and to provide added impact to the Primary Capital Programme, £100,000 has been allocated to each of the proposals at All Saints Upton CE Primary School and Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Catholic Primary School.

7.0 PLAYBUILDER CAPITAL 2010/11

Funding of £437,885 has been allocated by the DCSF for high quality and safe places to play by providing new playgrounds and remodelling existing playgrounds and equipment. Currently a number of proposals are being developed with the aim of meeting the DCSF target of eight playground projects for 2010/11.

A further report detailing the proposals will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval in March 2010.

8.0 PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 – 2010/11

Halton's Primary Capital Strategy was approved by the DCSF in March 2009, confirming Halton's allocation of £3,000,000 in 2009/10 and £5,378,000 in 2010/11 for the first two years of the programme. Further funding will be available for the remaining twelve years of the Programme (details of allocations yet to be confirmed by the DCSF). The Strategy for Change identified the following priorities for the first two years of the programme:

- The Grange Nursery, Infants and Junior Schools – development to provide an “all through school” as part of Halton's Building Schools for the Future programme to transform secondary schools. Estimated cost £6.5m.
- All Saints Upton CE Primary School – development to provide single site school including childrens centre and pre-school. Estimated cost £3.5m.
- Our Lady Mother Saviour Catholic Primary School - development to complete the remodelling of the school in partnership with Shrewsbury Diocese. Estimated cost £1.3m.

As the estimated building costs exceed the funding available under the Primary Capital Programme it will be necessary to join up with other eligible capital funding in order to maximise development opportunities and provide added impact for the Programme.

Following discussions with DCSF it has been necessary to convert some of the Primary Capital grant into PFI credits to take into account the anticipated timing of the building programme for the Grange “all through school” as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. Therefore £2.25m for 2009/10 and £4.25m for 2010/11 has been converted into PFI credits leaving £750,000 in 2009/10 and £1.128m in 2010/11 as capital grant.

9.0 EXTENDED SCHOOLS 2010/11

Funding of £116,880 has been allocated by the DCSF to develop and deliver the core offer of extended services. It is proposed to develop the services at Palace Fields Primary School.

Funding of £226,136 from 2009/10 has been carried forward to contribute to the All Saints Upton CE Primary School project.

10.0 BIG LOTTERY FUNDING & REVENUE IMPLICATIONS

The Big Lottery Fund is delivering MyPlace on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This is a discrete project unrelated to general Lottery funding.

MyPlace is a capital programme aimed at supporting local areas to deliver world class youth facilities. This programme must be driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs.

Specifically MyPlace offers the creativity and opportunity necessary to tackle some of the more challenging issues our young people face in our Borough, such as:

- Employment and educational outcomes for our young people;
- The numbers of young women getting pregnant ;
- The generational impact of exclusion from opportunity and ambition for some parts of our population in Halton.

The Children & Young People's Directorate submitted an application for MyPlace funding in September 2008. At the end of February 2009 we had confirmation our application had been successful, with an in principle grant of £2,500,000. The next stage would be to produce a comprehensive business plan with our partners, describing in detail our plans for MyPlace.

We also received Youth Capital Plus funding of £452,000 for financial year 2008/09. In order to support our development of MyPlace we were granted permission by DCSF to carry over this funding, with the agreement this would be spent during the course of the financial year 2009/10; and that it would be spent on the development of MyPlace. This meant work on the Kingsway Health Centre commenced in 2009/10 utilising this funding.

In developing the original bid document, and latterly the Business Plan, young people have finally rested upon the name of C-RMZ as the name for their MyPlace Centre and this project.

Upon receiving notice our bid was successful in February 2009; we have been working closely with the Big Lottery Fund to build a Business Plan which described our collective journey so far, and our plans, goals, ambitions and

financial arrangements for MyPlace for the next 5 years. We were also asked to submit a Capital Plan, which was undertaken by Property Services.

This has involved working closely with our voluntary sector partners to secure commitment, services and funding. This has been a necessary and important aspect in shaping MyPlace for the young people in Halton.

Third sector involvement is also a necessary prerequisite in relation to the discrete funding arrangements for MyPlace. Projects can only receive 49% of their funding from the Local Authority.

On 17th December 2009, DCSF signed off our Capital and Business Plan and spend of the full grant. £1,651,482 of the grant has been carried forward into 2010/11, with the remaining balance to be spent during 2009/10. The additional evidence relating to Partnership agreements and legal confirmation with regard to registration of building through the land registry, have all been dealt with and accepted by DCSF and the Big Lottery Fund.

This in effect means our plans for the Health Centre on Kingsway have been accepted and we have been formally notified we will receive the £2.5 million to fund the development of our local MyPlace project – (C-RMZ).

In accepting this commitment, Halton Council will become the responsible organisation and therefore responsible for securing the future operation of the project.

Part of the ongoing agreement will require Halton as the local authority leading this project to only fund up to 49% of the overall project running costs. In this respect C-RMZ will be a truly partnership delivered project.

MyPlace will require some amendments to existing arrangements with local providers insofar as many services will, in part, be relocated into MyPlace so that young people have access to a one stop shop for Youth Services. Consequently our financial and contractual arrangements with these providers will be subject to change.

The revenue implications for the project will be met by a range of income sources. These include partner's contributions, grant sources and reallocation of contracts. Appendix 2 provides a full breakdown of this.

11.0 HARNESSING TECHNOLOGIES

Funding has been allocated by the DCSF to support personalisation, closing the attainment gap and the move towards universal access to technology.

The 2009/10 Carry Forward of £388,968 will be spent on the following:

- North West Learning Grid – to enable all schools to access a wide range of curriculum digital resources (£28,870)
- Virtual Learning Platform – a personalised online learning space for all schools with the potential to support e-portfolios (£54,190)
- Various software purchases for schools (costs to be determined).

The 2010/11 allocation is £470,009. A further report will be submitted to Executive Board outlining proposals for this funding.

12.0 RADON GAS

The Health Protection Agency has recently published a detailed map as part of a national schools campaign showing areas where radon gas exists. Radon levels are measured on a scale from Class 1 (lowest) to Class 6 (highest). Some parts of Halton have been classified as Class 2 (second lowest). Halton is now required to undertake surveys in the schools located in this Class 2 area as a precautionary measure. Monitoring is carried out by placing small devices around the schools for three months which record atmospheric readings. The results from the monitors will then be analysed. However even in this Class 2 area it is expected 97-99% of monitoring results will fall below the action level for radon. In the event that remedial action is required the costs of such works will be funded from the contingency budget. (Costs to be funded from CERA revenue).

13.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs element of the Capital Programme and the Primary Capital Programme will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the learning environment through capital projects allocated in accordance with the priorities identified in the Asset Management Plan.

14.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs programme and the Primary Capital Programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

15.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

15.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

16.0 RISK ANALYSIS

16.1 As the costs identified in Appendix 2 are currently only estimates once final costs have been obtained should there be insufficient funds the lowest scoring projects (lowest priority) will be deferred to 2010/11.

16.2 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 2010/11.

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.

17.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to authorities 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 the Primary Capital Strategy for Change.

18.0 REASON FOR DECISION

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

19.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

20.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2010.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcement – DCSF 10/10/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Asset Management Steering Group Minutes	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Childrens Centres Capital Grant – DCSF 15/10/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Early Years Capital Grant – DCSF 30/11/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove