

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 1st March 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

**SUBJECT:** Capital Programme – 2012/2013

**PORTFOLIO:** Children Young People and Families

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the schools capital programmes for 2012/13 for Children & Enterprise Directorate.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) To note the capital funding available for 2012/13.
- 2) To agree the proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance and to note the position in respect of Basic Need.
- 3) To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the Capital Programme 2012/13.
- 4) To agree that a further report be submitted to Executive Board to detail how the Basic Need capital funding will be spent in 2012/13.

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In December 2011 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2012/13 as outlined below.

<b>TYPE OF FUNDING</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2012/13)</b>
Basic Need	£963,081
Capital Maintenance - LA maintained schools	£1,631,436
Capital Maintenance – VA maintained schools	£834,844
Devolved Formula Capital – LA maintained schools	£320,597
Devolved Formula Capital – VA maintained schools	£163,782

3.2 The types of capital funding that were announced by the Department for Education are as follows:

- 3.3 Basic Need capital funding is allocated to relative need for new places based on forecast data provided by LAs. The Basic Need funding is provided to local authorities to provide school places where needed in their area, in all categories of taxpayer-funded schools.
- 3.4 Capital Maintenance funding is allocated to ensure school buildings are properly maintained.
- 3.5 The Capital Maintenance – LA schools element is maintenance capital to local authorities to support the needs of the schools that they maintain and for Sure Start childrens centres in their area.
- 3.6 The Capital Maintenance -VA schools element is allocated to Chester Diocese, Shrewsbury Diocese and Liverpool Archdiocese to fund condition and suitability projects at VA schools.
- 3.7 Devolved Formula Capital – funding allocated directly to schools for their own use to address school building and ICT needs.
- 3.8 In addition to the schools capital grant funding outlined above a further £431,330 (to be confirmed) is allocated from CERA revenue funding as the local authority's contribution towards capital repair works in schools meaning total funding available for LA maintained schools is £2,062,766.
- 3.9 The Basic Need capital funding is allocated to the LA according to relative need for new places based on forecast data to address basic need pressures. At this stage it is not envisaged there are any Basic Need issues arising that are not already being addressed. A further detailed report will be submitted later in the year recommending proposals to be funded from this allocation. However the works at St Bedes Catholic Junior School (estimated cost £450,000) will be the first priority as works to increase capacity at St Bedes Catholic Infant School were approved in 2011/12.

#### **4.0 Overview of Schools Capital Programme 2012/13.**

- 4.1 It is proposed the Capital Maintenance and the CERA revenue allocation 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 captured on Property Services data base and from this a priority schedule of work is produced for all elements – building, mechanical and electrical.
  2. The detailed capital repairs programme for 2012/13 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 2011/12 capital repairs programme. Based on these estimated costs it is likely that all projects can be funded in 2012/13.

3. 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 as well as payment of retentions for major projects carried out in previous year.
4. 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. An allowance has also been included for carrying out of remedial works arising from updating the asbestos surveys.
5. School Access Initiative projects – previously LAs received separate capital funding to address access issues within school buildings and the school curriculum. In order to continue with this work it is proposed to allocate funding which schools will be invited to bid for in April 2012 with bids assessed against agreed criteria.
6. Schools Modernisation projects – this is funding to enable schools to address suitability issues by modernising accommodation that will improve the delivery of teaching and learning. Community schools & childrens centres will be invited to bid for this funding with bids assessed against agreed criteria. Schools and childrens centres will be required to make a contribution towards the cost of works.
7. 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.
8. A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in consortia type school buildings as a preventative measure against the risk of fire.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The capital repairs element and the schools modernisation projects in the 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.

## **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The capital repairs programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 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.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 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 2012/13.
- 8.3 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.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 The Access Initiative Programme provided 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 building works at schools.

## **10.0 REASON FOR DECISION**

- 10.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

## **11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 11.1 Not applicable.

## **12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

- 12.1 Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2012.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
<b>Schools Capital Announcement – DCSF 13/12/2011</b>	<b>Children &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>