

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 28th March 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2013/2014

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2013/14 for Children & Enterprise Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The capital funding available for 2013/14 is noted;
- ii) The position in respect of Basic Need is noted;
- iii) The proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account are approved;
- iv) The proposal for the Two Year Old capital funding is approved ;
- v) The proposal for the Short Breaks capital is approved; and
- vi) The report is submitted to Full Council for approval of the Capital Programme 2013/14.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In March 2013 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2013/14. The table below details the funding received.

TYPE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2013/14)
GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
Basic Need 2 Year Allocation (2013/14 & 2014/15) according to relative need for new places based on forecast data to address basic need pressures.	£1,203,445

TYPE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2013/14)
GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
Capital Maintenance – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,416,477
Capital Maintenance – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£809,396
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.	£289,712
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.	£163,533
Early Education for Two Year Olds Allocated to support the implementation of early education for two year olds from lower income families.	£355,916
Short Breaks Capital (2012/13) Allocated to provide a range of short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.	£241,942
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.	£431,330

3.2 The sections below detail the projects this funding will support with the exception of Basic Need, which will be the subject of an additional Executive Report and Devolved Formula Capital, which will be decided by the schools.

4.0 Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding

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

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Computer Aided Design Plans	£5,000	Used up to date plans where building improvement works have been carried out.
Fire Compartmentation	£20,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings.
Asbestos Management	£10,000	Annual updated of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Access Initiative Projects	£100,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
School Modernisation Projects	£500,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve educational development and curriculum suitability issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£78,159	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Capital Repairs	£1,134,648	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2013/14 can be found in Appendix 1. This is based upon a priority matrix using information taken from condition surveys.
Total	£1,847,807	

5.0 Early Education for Two Year Olds 2013/14

- 5.1 Local early years and childcare providers will be invited to apply for funding to make changes or purchases in order to create additional places for eligible 2 year olds.
- 5.2 Bids will be assessed against the ability to offer 15 additional hours of education to 2 year old children per week in a flexible manner in high achieving settings within areas of high demand.

6.0 Short Breaks Capital 2012/13

- 6.1 This grant is to provide a wide range of high quality opportunities providing positive life experiences for disabled children and young people as well as a break for parents and carers. When the fund was allocated in September 2012 a consultation exercise was undertaken to determine the best use for the grant. This consultation revealed that a specialist sensory and play centre for use by families or groups of disabled children, young people and adults would be beneficial.

- 6.2 A review of potential venues within Halton that could offer an inclusive, accessible play space as highlighted by the consultation was undertaken. The only venue that could meet the criteria was the Silver Blades Ice Rink at The Hive Leisure Park, Widnes. It has the benefit of a central location with good transport links and is part of a complex that already offers other activities and eating establishments. The rink was designed to be more accessible for disabled people from the outset and therefore already has a number of key features designed in.
- 6.3 A review has been undertaken regarding the lease between Halton Borough Council and the ice rink company. Assurances have been given that as long as the ice rink company obtain consent to carry out any structural alterations that may be required, the specialist sensory and play centre will not breach the lease agreement.
- 6.4 This report seeks approval for the funds to be used to develop the specialist sensory and play centre within the Silver Blades Ice Rink.
- 6.5 Furthermore, as the ice rink company is currently completing the works around the main ice rink and will shortly be installing an additional smaller ice pad, it is proposed that the specialist sensory and play centre is undertaken by the ice rink's own contractors. The Local Authority will be fully involved in the development of the area and will be consulted at all stages of the works.

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,
 - its statutory duty to secure free early education for eligible two year olds and
 - its duty to provide a range of short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.

8.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Capital repairs programme

This will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

8.2 Short Breaks Capital

The Short Breaks Capital Grant conditions are met, as they recommend working in partnership with private and voluntary organisations and using the grant in conjunction with funds provided from them.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

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

9.1.2 The Short Breaks Capital will provide a specialist sensory and play area at the Ice Rink, for use by families and groups of disabled children, young people and adults.

9.1.3 The 2 year old capital grant is intended to support the implementation of early education for 2 year old children of lower income families.

9.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

9.2.1 The Short Breaks Capital has the potential to offer mentoring, young leadership training and work experience for vulnerable young people in Halton.

9.2.2 The 2 year old capital grant is intended to support the implementation of early education for 2 year old children of lower income families.

9.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The specialist sensory and play area provided by Short Breaks Capital, will provide disabled children, young people and adults a break away from their day to day routine and provide a full sensory experience which will enhance their psychological well-being.

9.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

9.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The provision of the specialist sensory and play area will further enhance the Ice Rink facility, and should encourage more visitors for outside Halton to visit the area.

10.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

10.1 **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 2013/14. 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.

10.2 **Short Breaks Capital**

A milestone payment schedule will be issued to mitigate the financial risks. Stage payments will be checked against actual work completed, prior to any payment being made. This project will be a jointly funded venture, with the ice rink committing funds and resources to this project too.

- 10.3 The rink has adequate public liability insurance and if providers are booking the facility for set sessions they already have public liability insurance, for not less than £5,000,000 for their existing activities that would cover this. They would also be required to complete risk assessments for the activities. If families were hiring the facility for a birthday party they would be responsible for that session. The facility will have a disclaimer notice and there will be 'conditions of use' displayed for example shoes must be removed, no food etc. If parents are present, they will be responsible for their children in the venue and for adhering to the conditions of use. All of the works and equipment will be completed, maintained and serviced to the required standards.
- 10.4 A Legal agreement will be drawn up between Halton Borough Council and the ice rink, detailing the responsibilities of on-going cleaning and maintenance, insurance requirements and service delivery arrangements. This agreement will be reviewed annually by both parties and any amendments agreed.
- 10.5 The agreement will also stipulate that, in the event of the ice rink company ceasing to operate at the venue, the equipment is the property of Halton Borough Council and would be removed (where possible) should the ice rink close.

11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 The Short Breaks Capital funding will ensure a wide range of short breaks services for disabled children and families.

12.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

- 12.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

13.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 13.1 Not applicable.

14.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

- 14.1 Capital Programmes for 2013/14 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2013.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcement – DfE 01/03/2013	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove
Early Education for Two Year Olds Capital DfE announcement 27/12/2012	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove
Short Breaks Capital DfE Letter – Sept 12	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove