

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10th January 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2008/2009

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the funding available for the schools capital programme 2008/2009; it outlines the process for prioritisation for capital repairs and the proposed programme. It also provides an update of the Childrens Personal Social Services Capital Allocation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Full Council be recommended to approve the capital programme detailed in Appendix 1 for 2008/2009 and the Children’s Personal Social Services Capital Allocation detailed in Appendix 3.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The main source of funding for the schools capital programme is the DCSF capital allocation. For 2008/2009 capital funding is available as follows:

DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION
Capital (SCE R)	£1,477,843
LA revenue repairs (to be confirmed)	£422,870
TOTAL	£1,900,713

In November, 2006 the DCSF approved an advance of £700,000 from 2008/2009 schools capital funding for the extension and remodelling works at Brookfields and Cavendish Schools. The advance will be deducted by reducing the capital grant over the period 2008-2011. The capital allocation above of £1,477,843 is the net allocation after the return of the first advance payment of £233,333.

3.2 AutoCAD plans were produced this year 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 update plans at schools where improvement works have been carried out. The budget provision required to update plans is £5,000.

- 3.3 Fire compartmentation works are carried out in consortia type school buildings as a preventative measure against the risk of fire. To continue the work to provide fire compartmentation it is proposed to carry out further works. The budget provision required for this work is £15,000.
- 3.4 A contingency of £170,000 has been identified for 2008/2009. This budget is used to cover the costs of emergency capital and health and safety works that arise during the year.
- 3.5 During the design of the extension and remodelling works for the Cavendish and Brookfields Schools a number of works have come to light that were unforeseen at estimate stage. These include the provision of new gas supplies and upgrading electrical supply due to existing services being inadequate, additional drainage, piling foundations and provision of retaining wall due to poor ground conditions. The budget provision required for these works is £218,000.
- 3.6 Property Services carry out an annual short survey of all schools plus a more detailed survey for one quarter of Halton schools each year. These surveys 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 Headteacher 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 Peoples Directorate.
- 3.7 The detailed capital repairs programme for 2008/2009 is identified in Appendix 2. The costs shown against each project are currently provisional. Based on these estimated costs it is likely that all projects can be funded in 2008/2009 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 2009/10.
- 3.8 Funding for the Primary Capital Programme becomes available from 2009/2010. In order to carry out feasibility studies and other associated survey works in preparation for the programme a budget provision of £50,000 is required.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs element of 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.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 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 2009/10.

7.2 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 or able to contribute these projects may not be carried out in 2008/9.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Consideration to access is given in all projects.

9.0 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