

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Children and Young People  
**SUBJECT:** Accelerated Capital  
**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an update on the capital programme for 2009/10 following the offer to local authorities by the DCSF to accelerate capital funding.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

- (1) To note the additional capital funding available for 2009/10; and**
- (2) To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the additional works to be carried out from the Capital Programme 2009/10**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In November the DCSF offered to release in 2009/10 some of the capital grant programmed for release in 2010/11 with the aim of stimulating the local economy, especially for small and medium sized enterprises.

In order to support this initiative the Directorate has confirmed to the DCSF that it wishes to bring forward £500,000 from the grant scheduled to be released in 2010/11. In addition, £120,000 of LCVAP has been brought forward for use on schools in Shrewsbury Diocese.

It is proposed the accelerated capital funding available to Halton will fund the following works:

- Moore Primary School – removal of mobile classroom and provision of new build classroom.
- Lunts Heath Primary School – re-roofing.
- West Bank Primary School – new boiler.
- Hillview Primary School – new boiler.

- Cavendish School – furniture and equipment required to complete the building project at the school.

### 3.2 Moore Primary School – Removal of mobile classroom.

The promotion of inclusive learning and primary enrichment through replacing unsuitable temporary accommodation and remodelling main school buildings is a key issue that has been identified in Halton's Asset Management Plan Statement of Priorities.

Pupils and staff working in mobile accommodation are disadvantaged by being separate from the main school activities and facilities and having inadequate learning environments which suffer from extreme weather conditions.

The project will give pupils access to a purpose built, well equipped teaching environment and access to whole school facilities and activities.

Estimated cost of works - £280,000.

### 3.3 Lunts Heath, West Bank and Hillview Primary Schools – Capital Repair Works.

The capital repairs programme 2009/10 was approved by Executive Board on 29 January 2009 ( Minute No. 96 refers) and included a reserve list of works to be carried out in the event that funding became available. It is proposed the following works be brought forward from the reserve list of works:

- Lunts Heath Primary School – Re-roofing works. Estimated cost - £57,500
- West Bank Primary School – New boiler. Estimated cost – £92,000
- Hillview Primary School – New boiler. Estimated cost - £57,500

### 3.4 Cavendish School – Furniture and equipment.

The school has recently had extension and remodelling works carried out in order to be able to deliver the secondary curriculum. Furniture and equipment is required to kit out the new specialist and general teaching areas.

Estimated cost - £35,000.

### 3.5 School contributions to capital works.

It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of capital works. Based on the estimated cost of these works it is estimated this contribution will be around £81,000. As the costs are currently only estimated once final costs have been established it may be possible to bring forward other projects from the reserve list of capital repairs.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

These capital works 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 and the removal of mobile classrooms 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 and the removal of mobile classrooms will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 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 2009/10.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects and in particular access arrangements will be improved by the removal of mobile classrooms.

#### **9.0 REASON FOR DECISION**

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

#### **10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not applicable.

#### **11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2009.

**12.0 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 Letter – DCSF 29/11/2008</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>
<b>Reply to DCSF – CYPD 6/2/2009</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>