

REPORT TO: Halton School Forum

DATE: 17th March 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Ann McIntyre – Operational Director

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2014/2015

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2014/15 for Children & Enterprise Directorate, submitted to the Council's Executive Board on 27th February 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the School Forum note:

- i) The capital funding available for 2014/15,
- ii) The position in respect of Basic Need,
- iii) The proposals to be funded from Universal Infant Free School Meals capital,
- iv) The proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account,
- v) The proposals for the Halebank Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School,
- vi) That full Council will be required to approve the Capital Programme for 2014/15.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In December 2013 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2014/15. The table below details the funding received.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
Basic Need	
3 Year Allocation (2014/15, 2015/16 & 2016/17) according to relative need for new places based on forecast data to address basic need pressures.	£2,429,250

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
Capital Maintenance – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,366,456
Capital Maintenance – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£802,726
Universal Infant Free School Meals Capital Allocated to ensure school kitchens and dining rooms can provide free school lunches for reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils. Local Authority maintained schools Voluntary aided schools	£240,710 £125,156
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.	£278,180
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.	£163,405
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 (funding to be confirmed).	£431,330

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 to update plans of school buildings where improvement works have been carried out.
Fire Compartmentation	£20,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings.
Asbestos Management	£15,000	Annual update 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	£75,000	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Capital Repairs	£1,006,000	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2014/15 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,721,000	

5.0 Basic Need Capital Funding

- 5.1 The Basic Need funding is provided to local authorities to provide school places in their area in all categories of tax-payer funded schools. Halton has recently used Basic Need funding to carry out building works to provide additional school places at Lunts Heath, St Bedes Infants and Juniors, Windmill Hill and Weston Primary schools therefore alleviating pressure for the demand for school places in these areas. All works are now complete.
- 5.2 Building works to provide post 16 facilities at Ashley School and increase capacity at Beechwood Primary School are also being funded from Basic Need capital funding – works to commence later this year.
- 5.3 The use of any unallocated balance of Basic Need capital funding will be subject to a further report to the Council's Executive Board later in the year.

6.0 Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

- 6.1 Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is included in the Department for Education's Priority School Building Programme – a

national, privately financed programme to address those schools in the worst building condition.

- 6.2 The Education Funding Agency, acting on behalf of the Department for Education, has recently announced its Outline Business Case for the northwest batch of schools in the Programme has been approved. It is anticipated the first schools will be built in 2015 and it is likely Halebank CE VC Primary will be rebuilt sometime between 2016 and 2017.
- 6.3 A voluntary pre-school operates from a mobile classroom on the site. The Education Funding Agency has advised there is no funding available to accommodate the pre-school in the new school building and when the existing school is demolished the building services that serve the pre-school will be terminated.
- 6.4 The pre-school provides vital services for the local community and acts as a feeder for the Halebank School. The provision of the free early year's entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is a statutory duty on the Local Authority and the demand for places in Ditton ward is high compared to the Widnes average and this will increase further with the expansion of the free entitlement for 2 year olds up to September 2014.
- 6.5 The cost of retaining the gas, electric and water services to the pre-school mobile will be in the region of £20,000 which can be funded from Capital Programme 14/15.
- 6.6 In order to deliver the expansion of the free entitlement for 2 year olds it will be necessary to carry out some repairs and upgrade works to the pre-school mobile. The estimated cost of these works is £25,000 which can be funded from the Early Education for Two Year Old Capital previously allocated to the local authority in 2012/13.

7.0 UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- 7.1 Universal Infant Free School Meals Capital has been provided to local authorities to ensure school kitchen and dining rooms are able to provide every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 with a free school lunch. The works to be carried out from the Local Authority maintained schools allocation (£240,710) have been determined through suitability, condition and pupil projections, in discussion with the Council's School's Catering Service and are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 7.2 The works to be carried out from the Voluntary Aided allocation (£125,156) for Voluntary Aided maintained schools is to be agreed by the Diocese in consultation with their respective Voluntary Aided schools and will similarly be based upon suitability, condition, and pupil projections.

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects.

9.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Capital repairs programme

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

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 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.

The Early Education for Two Year Old Capital is intended to support the implementation of early education for lower income families.

10.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Early Education for Two Year Old Capital is intended to support the implementation of early education for lower income families.

10.3 A Healthy Halton

The Universal Infant Free School Meals programme will lead to positive improvements to health encouraging positive eating habits helping to improve concentration and performance.

10.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

10.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

11.0 RISK ANALYSIS

11.1 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 2014/15. 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.

12.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

12.1 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.

13.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

13.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

14.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14.1 Not applicable.

15.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

15.1 Capital Programmes for 2014/15 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2014.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcements – DfE 01/03/2013 & 18/12/2013	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove