

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10 December 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – People and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2016/17

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2016/17 for the People and Economy Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The capital funding available for 2016/17 is noted;**
- ii) The proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account are approved;**
- iii) The proposal to relocate the mobile classroom from Halebank Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School is approved;**
- iv) The proposals for Fairfield Primary School are approved.**
- v) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme 2016/17.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In February 2015 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2015/16 as well as indicative allocations for the two year period 2016/17 and 2017/18. By introducing three year allocations, the Department for Education are enabling those responsible for the school estate to plan effectively and make strategic investment decisions.

The table below details the indicative funding notified for 2016/17.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,097,187
School Condition Allocation – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£858,851
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.	£246,343
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.	£165,161
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 (level of funding to be confirmed).	£345,821

4.0 School Condition Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding.

4.1 The table below details how the School Condition 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	£38,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Asbestos Management	£20,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Access Initiative Projects	£70,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
School Modernisation Projects	£375,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve educational and school buildings development.
Contingency	£83,986	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Fairfield Primary School	£125,000	Contribution to remodelling and extension works.
Halebank CE Primary School	£30,000	Relocation of mobile classroom.
Capital Repairs	£730,241	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2016/17 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,477,227	

Schools are required to make a contribution to the cost of capital repair works. It is estimated this contribution will be in the region of £34,219 based on current budget costs for the works.

5.0 Halebank CE Primary School.

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Education Funding Agency, acting on behalf of the Department for Education, announced earlier this year the appointment of Morgan Sindall as the contractor to build the northwest batch of schools in the Programme. The project to rebuild Halebank CE Primary School commenced on site in July 2015 and will be completed in April, 2016.
- 5.3 A mobile classroom on the site will become surplus to requirements when the new school is built. As the classroom is in good condition it is proposed to retain an option to relocate the mobile to another Halton school should the need arise – location yet to be determined. The cost to relocate the mobile is estimated to be circa £30,000.

6.0 Fairfield Primary School.

- 6.1 In January 2014 Fairfield Junior School was expanded to allow the integration of the Infants School to form the Fairfield Primary School. The primary school will continue to operate in two separate buildings and as a consequence a number of improvements are required to address building and organisational issues at the newly combined primary school. A feasibility study has been carried out for the building improvements and the project has progressed into detailed design and tendering and is due to commence on site February 2016.
- 6.2 £1,400,000 Basic Need funding has already been approved to contribute towards the cost of the building improvements (minute EXB 43 (4/9/14) refers) as well as a further £250,000 School Condition capital funding (minute EXB 150 (26/3/15) refers) of which £125,000 is being funded from 2016/17 allocation.

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.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In February 2015 the DfE announced indicative capital allocations for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as part of a three year announcement covering 2015 to 2018. The indicative capital allocation of funding for 2016/17 (£1,097,187) is the same as 2015/16. CERA funding is subject to confirmation by Council early 2016. In the event that either of these allocations are reduced the amount of funding available for elements of the programme will be reduced accordingly.

9.0 OTHER 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.
- 10.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**
N/A.
- 10.3 **A Healthy Halton**
N/A

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 2016/17. 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 2016/17 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2016.

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 09/02/2015.	Children & Enterprise	Phil Dove