

REPORT: Executive Board

DATE: 25 January 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2007/2008

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the funding available for the schools capital programme 2007/2008; it outlines the process for prioritisation for capital repairs and the proposed programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

(1) **Full Council be recommended to approve the capital programme identified in Appendix 1 for 2007-2008.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The main source of funding for the schools capital programme is the DfES capital allocation. For 2007/2008 capital funding available is as follows:

DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION
Capital Grant (SCE {C})	£1,160,540
Capital SCE {R})	£354,597
LEA Revenue Repairs (to be confirmed)	£422,870
TOTAL	£1,938,007

3.2 As agreed by Executive Board on 8th June 2006 £1,101,358 of this funding has been allocated to the capital improvement schemes at Brookfields and Cavendish. In addition, in November 2006 the DfES approved an advance of £700,000 from 2008/2009 capital funding to allow the completion of the scheme without further phasing. The funding for this project has been further enhanced through the addition of £47,000 capital saved from the capital programme in 2006/2007.

- 3.3 Last year AutoCAD (detailed floor plans) plans were completed in a format that 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.
- 3.4 To continue the work started last year to provide fire compartmentation in some school buildings it is proposed to carry out further works. The budget provision required for this work is £15,000.
- 3.5 A contingency of £139,982 has been identified for 2007/2008. This budget is used to cover the costs of the retentions from previous capital repairs schemes along with emergency capital and health and safety work.
- 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 the condition score matrix. (see Appendix 3 for details). This matrix has been agreed with the Asset Management Steering Group. The detailed capital repairs programme 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 2007/2008, however, should the costs following tender be less than the estimated costs further projects will be brought forward from the reserve list.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Capital Programme identified above 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 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 To ensure the Council can respond to emergency capital repairs and/or health and safety issues identified during 2007/2008 a contingency of £139,982 has been budgeted for.
- 5.2 As the costs identified in Appendix 2 are currently only estimates once final costs have been obtained should there be insufficient funds projects the highest scoring projects (lowest priority) will be deferred to 2008/2009.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 outline the main financial consequences of the capital repairs project. In addition, schools identified with a capital repairs project must contribute towards the costs of the scheme, in line with previously agreed criteria. Only schools still contributing to a previous Local Authority capital project are exempt. If a school is unwilling to agree to pay the contribution it is removed from the capital programme.
- 6.2 There are no additional revenue associated consequences of the capital repairs programme in many cases schools will benefit from reduced revenue costs as a result of the completion of the capital repair.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcement – DfES 20/12/2005	Finance and Resources Division	Ann McIntyre
Asset Management Steering Group Minutes –	Finance and Resources Division	Ann McIntyre