

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2009/2010

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programme for 2009/10 for Children & Young People Directorate (CYPD).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

(1) To note the capital funding available for 2009/10;

(2) To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the Schools Capital Programme 2009/10.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The total capital funding allocation for 2009/10 is outlined below.

<u>TYPE OF FUNDING</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2009/10)</u>
Schools Capital Allocation (Supported Borrowing)	£1,504,653 *
LA contribution to repairs from revenue (to be confirmed)	£431,330
Access Initiative	£197,999
Children's Centre Capital	£47,194
Early Years Childcare Capital	£545,573
Playbuilder Capital	£411,252
Primary Capital Programme	£3,000,000 (Funding subject to PCP Strategy for Change being approved)
Total:	£6,138,001

* In November 2006 the DCSF approved an advance of £700,000 from 2009/2010 schools capital funding allocation for the extension and remodelling works at Brookfield's and Cavendish Schools. The advance will be deducted by reducing the capital grant over the period 2008-2011. The capital allocation above of £1,504,653 is the net allocation after the return of the second advance payment of £233,333.

3.2 Overview of Schools Capital Programme 2009/10.

It is proposed the schools capital and Local Authority revenue allocations fund the following works. See Appendix 1: Summary of funding.

1. 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 Head teacher 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 People Directorate.

2. The detailed capital repairs programme for 2009/2010 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 2009/2010 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 2010/11.
3. Other commitments from this fund are:
 - AutoCAD plans have been produced 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 maintain up to date plans for all schools where building improvement works have been carried out.
 - A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in consortia type school buildings as a preventative measure against the risk of fire. To continue with this work it is essential to allocate funds to this programme.
4. A notional allocation for Primary Capital (£3.0m in 2009/10 and £5.378m in 2010/11) has been provided to all authorities. The exact amount available will be confirmed when the authority's Primary Capital Strategy is approved by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) – the Strategy is required to be re-submitted to the DCSF by 31 January, 2009. In order to maximise development opportunities and to provide added impact to the Primary Capital Programme it will necessary to join with other eligible capital funding. It is therefore necessary to make a contribution of £400,000 from the Schools Capital Programme 2009/10 towards the

proposals in the Primary Capital Programme (as detailed below in paragraph 7.0).

5. A contingency fund is also retained from this fund. This is used to cover the costs of emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year of a capital nature.
6. Fairfield High School – Wade Deacon High and Fairfield High School are currently federated until the closure of Fairfield High in August 2010. Wade Deacon will then operate as a split site school until the remodelling of Wade Deacon has been completed in 2013. It will therefore be necessary to modify a number of general and specialist teaching areas at Fairfield High until the new accommodation is available at the Wade Deacon site. The scope and detail of the works is yet to be determined and costed. Funding provision will be included in the contingency budget.
7. Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 – in order to ensure systems in respect of asbestos management are robust it is necessary to update existing asbestos surveys.
8. Cavendish School – upgrading of the changing rooms associated with the new multi purpose hall is required to enhance the recent extension and remodelling works.

4.0 ACCESS INITIATIVE FUNDING 2009/10

Funding of £197,999 has been allocated by the DCSF to address access issues within school curriculum and buildings. Schools will be invited to submit bids for funding in April 2009 with bids assessed against agreed criteria.

5.0 EARLY YEARS CHILDRENS CENTRE CAPITAL AND CHILDCARE CAPITAL 2009/10

Funding of £47,194 has been allocated by the DCSF for the capital maintenance of existing childrens centres. Childcare Capital funding of £545,573 has been allocated by the DCSF to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent early years and childcare settings. Bids will be invited from settings and will be assessed against the aims of the grant:

- To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities and ICT resources.
- To ensure all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision.
- To enable private, voluntary and independent providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

A further report detailing bids received and proposed works will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval.

6.0 PLAYBUILDER CAPITAL 2009/10

Funding of £411,252 has been allocated by the DCSF to provide high quality and safe places to play. Expressions of interest are to be invited which will be assessed at end of March 2009. A further report detailing the bids received will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval.

7.0 PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 – 2010/11

Halton is required to resubmit its Primary Capital Strategy to the DCSF before 31 January, 2009. Halton's provisional allocation is £3,000,000 in 2009/10 and £5,378,000 in 2010/11 for the first two years of the programme. Further funding will be available for the remaining twelve years of the Programme (details of allocations yet to be confirmed by the DCSF). The Strategy for Change has identified the following priorities for the first two years of the programme:

- The Grange Nursery, Infants and Junior Schools – development to provide an “all through school” as part of Halton's Building Schools for the Future programme to transform secondary schools. Estimated cost £6.5m.
- All Saints Upton CE Primary School – development to provide single site school. Estimated cost £3.1m.
- Our Lady Mother Superior Catholic Primary School - development to complete the remodelling of the school in partnership with Shrewsbury Diocese. Estimated cost £1.3m.

As the estimated building costs exceed the funding available under the Primary Capital Programme it will be necessary to join up with other eligible capital funding in order to maximise development opportunities and provide added impact for the Programme. A further report will be submitted to Executive Board as the Primary Capital Programme develops.

8.0 14-19 DIPLOMA EXEMPLAR FUNDING

All local authorities have been provided with the opportunity to bid for capital projects up to £5m that create world class facilities for diploma lines of learning. Consideration will be given to the projects that represent the best use of limited funding. A bid was submitted to provide world class facilities to deliver the Engineering Diploma with Wade Deacon High School being the proposed base for the facility. Facilities to be available for learners from September 2011. DCSF will advise local authorities which projects will receive funding at the end of March 2009.

9.0 YOUTH CAPITAL FUND AND YOUTH CAPITAL FUND PLUS

All local authorities have been provided with additional funds to invest in youth facilities with a further 50 local authorities receiving funding to target work and resources “to increase young people’s participation in activities, provide facilities and bring young people and the community together” (Youth Taskforce Action Plan 2008).

Additionally all local Authorities have been invited to submit bids through the My Place Fund, to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs. Halton has submitted a My Place bid proposing the refurbishment of the Kingsway Health Centre. Approval has been granted by DCSF to carry forward the Youth Capital Fund plus Grant (£452k) to contribute towards the refurbishment costs of the centre if the bid is successful. If the bid is unsuccessful the grant will fund improvements at Upton Community Centre to enhance the facilities for young people there.

10.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs element of the Capital Programme and the Primary 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.

11.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs programme and the Primary Capital Programme will contribute to Halton’s Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

12.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

12.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

13.0 RISK ANALYSIS

13.1 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 2010/11.

13.2 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 to contribute these projects will not be carried out in 2009/10.

13.3 In the event of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change not being approved by the DCSF the schools capital contribution (£400,000) will be re-allocated to other projects.

14.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to authorities 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 the Primary Capital Strategy for Change.

15.0 CAPITAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMMES 2010/11

The DCSF has confirmed the following allocations for 2010/11.

<u>TYPE OF FUNDING</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF FUNDING 2010/11</u>
Schools Capital Allocation (Supported Borrowing) (Grant)	£514,083 £990,570
LA contribution to repairs from revenue (to be confirmed)	£431,330
Access Initiative	£197,999
Childrens Centre Capital	£49,661
Early Years Childcare Capital	£545,573
Playbuilder Capital	£411,252
Primary Capital Programme	£5,378,000 (Funding subject to PCP Strategy for Change being approved by DCSF)
Total	£8,518,468

Further reports will be submitted to Executive Board recommending proposed works from the capital allocations.

16.0 REASON FOR DECISION

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

17.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

18.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

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

19.0 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
Childrens Centres Capital Grant – DCSF 15/10/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Early Years Capital Grant – DCSF 30/11/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove