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CHILDREN'S SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009-10

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Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Chris McEwan, Children & Young People  
Portfolio

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

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SUMMARY REPORT

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Members' agreement to:
  - (a) the proposed Children's Services Capital Programme for 2009/10; and
  - (b) releasing the capital funds in relation to this programme.

**Summary**

2. Children's Services have been allocated £9,023,346 for the period 2009-10 to support a range of projects and initiatives. This report also seeks approval for the release of £15,301,395 funds from the 2010-11 period to support the development of Primary Capital projects following discussions with DCSF about bringing forward spend. **Appendix A** provides a full breakdown of all funding streams which constitute the £24,324,741 capital in total. There is an expectation that a substantial amount of this funding will be committed in the 2009-10 year. However, financial deadlines allow spend to continue until August 2011.
3. All funding has been allocated in line with rigorous assessment processes that support Asset Management priorities and has been undertaken in full consultation with key stakeholder such as Head teachers.
4. **Appendix B** provides a full breakdown of each of the projects and identifies the breakdown of funding between the Devolved Formula contribution being put forward by schools and the balance provided through other funding allocations.
5. All projects will be managed in line with the new Corporate Capital Process Review procedures.

**Recommendations**

6. It is recommended that Members :-
  - (a) agree to formally release the capital funding of £24,324,741;
  - (b) agree to undertake the priorities identified in Appendix A; and

- (c) agree the proposed capital investment programme for Children's Services identified in Appendix B.

### **Reasons**

- 7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) Through the Local Asset Management Planning Arrangements all schools have agreed to the proposed programme of works; and
  - (b) Detailed planning to target need has been undertaken which ensures effective use of all investment.

**Murray Rose,  
Director of Children's Services**

### **Background Papers**

Comprehensive Spending Review – 3 year Schools Capital Allocations 2008-09 to 2010-11

Rachel Jones: Extension 2026

S17 Crime and Disorder	It is considered that improved facilities and better building maintenance will contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Specific schemes to address the Kitchen and Dining areas of some schools will lead to healthier eating opportunities and a greater take up of free school meals. These projects should have an impact on the Health and Well being of children across the Borough.
Sustainability	All work undertaken will be designed and constructed with the highest regard to sustainability and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources.
Diversity	All capital projects will add to the diversity of buildings and technology available in Darlington.
Wards Affected	Capital projects are being undertaken within most schools in the Borough. Therefore, all wards are affected.
Groups Affected	Children and young people (from birth to 19 years) in childcare or full time education.
Budget and Policy Framework	The budget for all proposed projects is contained within the £24,324,741 allocated through the Capital Programme. This report does not recommend a change to the Council policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision due to the amount of funding Members are requested to release, and also because it affects all schools in the Borough.
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Capital Programme is consistent with Aspiring Darlington: providing high quality facilities that support modern approaches to education in schools and for lifelong learning.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

8. The Authority funds the capital maintenance and improvement of schools from a variety of sources including capital allocations received from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), bid based submissions for Central Government funding programmes (compiled and submitted by Children's Services) and Darlington Borough Council Corporate funding. In addition, the Department receives funding for specific schemes e.g. improvements to ICT, provision of Children's Centres, etc.
9. Attached at Appendix A is a summary of all the capital allocations Children's Services have secured for 2009/10. Additional funding may be secured throughout the year and if this occurs, reports will be brought to Cabinet to formally request the release of the additional funding.
10. There have been some movements in secured funding since the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which are detailed below:

	<b>£ms</b>
Medium Term Finance Plan 2009/10	8.150
<u>Add recent grant notifications</u>	
Standards & Diversity Capital – Abbey Schools	0.150
Prudential Borrowing to support installation of a Sprinkler system in the North Road pathfinder project	0.053
Devolved Formula Capital contribution towards the North Road pathfinder project	0.032
<u>Add early release of 2010/11 allocations</u>	
School Modernisation	1.086
Primary Capital Programme	5.378
New Pupil Places / Basic Need	0.773
Devolved Formula Capital	1.938
Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare grant	0.226
14-19 Diplomas / SEN & Disabilities	6.000
Quality & Access for PVI childcare settings	0.440
Extended Schools	0.100
<b>Total (actual)</b>	<b>24.324,741</b>

## **Prioritisation Process**

11. Children's Services is responsible for working with schools to ensure all funding is targeted to meet the highest priority needs. The prioritisation process is led by an overarching Strategy for Capital Investment which is developed in line with Darlington Borough Council's corporate vision and the Children and Young People's Plan.
12. This overarching strategy is then used to guide local priorities and develop a Local Asset Management Plan Agreement (LAMPA) for each individual school. These agreement plans are agreed in partnership with each school and concentrate on the allocation of school based Devolved Formula Capital whilst highlighting any urgent needs at the school that may require a larger capital investment from centrally held Children's Services' allocations.

## **Programme of Works**

13. The annual programme of works for larger capital projects is developed by Children's Services after collating, evaluating and considering the needs of each individual school against other priority capital works across all Darlington schools. Data is collated from a number of sources through regular surveys of each school (condition, sufficiency, suitability, legionella testing, asbestos, health and safety, etc). Once the works have been identified and prioritised a programme of works is taken forward and implemented. The 2009/10 proposed programme of works is attached at Appendix B.
14. The programme has historically been biased towards condition need rather than any other area of improvement, as this was required to improve the overall state of the school stock. Increasingly we are now attempting to ensure more emphasis is given to ensuring we have suitable environments in which our teachers teach and our children learn. The LAMPA process is supporting this aim by challenging schools to look at the suitability of their building to deliver the national curriculum in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **Devolved Formula Capital**

15. Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding received from the DCSF is devolved directly to schools to support them in addressing the priority capital needs of the educational built environment. The grant is allocated to every school on the basis of a lump sum and a balance calculated on the number of pupils on roll.
16. Although schools have a high level of autonomy in deciding how to spend this funding, they are required to prioritise investment in line with Government priorities. Local Authority priorities (as set out in the Local Authority's Asset Management Plan), and in line with the identified priorities for the school (as agreed in the Schools LAMPA). DFC is allocated annually, but can be drawn down up to three years in advance to enable larger projects to be funded.

## Large Scale Capital Projects and Programme of Works

### Hummersknott School and Language College

17. This project involves the significant remodel and refurbishment of this 1200 place secondary school. Work commenced on site in the summer of 2007 with Phase 1 being completed for September 2008. Phase 2 is now well underway and the total project is due to be completed by September 2009.
18. The total budget for this project is £16,169,253 which has previously been released by Cabinet.

### Primary Capital Programme

19. In 2005 the Government announced a capital programme to enable Local Authorities to make strategic investment in their primary school building stock. The main programme will commence with the first wave of funding covering 2009/10 to 2010/11 and aims to support significant capital investment to remodel and refurbish up to 17 primary schools across Darlington. The strategy to support the project and details of the projects at each school was approved by Cabinet in July 2008 (Minute Reference C25(3) – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008).
20. To enable the Primary Capital Programme to deliver significant outcomes for children and to support as many projects as possible, the initial DCSF allocation has been supported with additional funding from other resources available to Children's Services. The following table provides a breakdown of the funding for the programme:

Funding Source	2009-10	2010-11	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's
PCP Allocation	£3,000	£5,378	£8,378
Modernisation	£600	£600	£1,200
Basic Need	£773	£773	£1,546
Devolved Formula Capital	£710	£710	£1,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,083</b>	<b>7,461</b>	<b>£12,544</b>

21. Specific projects are detailed in Appendix B attached to this report. All projects are being managed in line with the new Corporate Capital Process Review procedures. To ensure projects can be implemented as quickly as possible, work is already underway within Children's Services to develop briefs and undertake detailed consultation with key stakeholders, such as Headteachers, staff, pupils, Governing Bodies and key members of the community.

22. Work is also being undertaken with colleagues in Community Services to identify a full programme of work to cover the 2009/10 to 2010/11 period. Once finalised, this programme will ensure spend can be achieved within timescales and may mean that some of the larger projects are phased over the two year period.
23. Release of funding of £12,544,000 is requested to take the projects through to completion.

#### Early Years Capital Funding

24. Darlington has been allocated £854,450 from 2009/10 to 2010/11 in the form of Early Years Capital Grant. The Government expects that the majority of this capital grant is used to improve the quality of the environment in Private, Voluntary and Independent early years and childcare settings both to support high quality experiences for young children and to ensure that all children can access services and benefit fully from them. The Government has three main national aims:
  - (a) to improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), with a particular emphasis on improving outdoor play and physical activities, and ICT resources;
  - (b) to ensure all children, including disabled children are able to access provision; and
  - (c) to enable PVI providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.
25. To ensure that the grant is allocated in line with these priorities, individual visits have been undertaken to each setting to obtain details of their requirements and needs against each of the criteria. A transparent scoring process has been developed which will be moderated by a panel of officers from Early Years. Once allocations have been confirmed the grant will be allocated to each setting, with spend being monitored in line with agreed timescales.
26. The indicative project allocation list suggests that a range of small scale projects will be supported at the majority of PVI settings across the Borough. These projects are likely to cover support for areas of Health and Safety, ICT provision, enhancements to outdoor play facilities and additional areas of storage. Allocations are likely to range from £1,000 to £30,000. Any schemes over £30,000 will be reported to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee.
27. Release of funding of £854,450 is requested to take the projects through to completion.

#### Phase 3 Children's Centre Roll Out 2008-2010

28. Darlington was able to undertake significant capital developments during Phase 1 (2004-06) and Phase 2 (2006-08) of the Children's Centres funding allocations, providing facilities at Maidendale, Dodmire, The Coleridge Centre, McNay Street, Mount Pleasant and Red Hall. All of these Children's Centres received official designation within the required timescales.
29. Over the 2008-2010 period the Government has released further capital funding to enable all children under 5 and their families to be able to access Children's Centre services should they wish to do so.

30. There is no expectation that major new build will occur in Phase 3. The Government believe that this funding should be used to improve existing services in order to tailor them to meet the different needs of each community, fitting around existing provision, refurbishing or extending existing premises. Generally, Phase 3 centres will build on existing services to offer better integrated and accessible services for families.
31. Darlington has been allocated £606,980 from 2009-10 to 2010-11. Due to limitations on both Capital and Revenue funding it would not be either possible or advisable to consider building additional centres in the Borough. Therefore, it is proposed that existing centres will be remodelled or developed to enable them to extend their reach to include areas not currently served, with the possibility of providing outreach services to the most vulnerable families.
32. Facilities at each of the existing Children's Centres have been reviewed and priorities have been identified. A full work programme is being developed which will include projects at each of the Centres with some additional work to extend the reach of the Centres to the outlying areas.
33. Release of funding of £606,980 is requested to take the projects through to completion.

#### Building Schools for the Future & 14-19 Capital for Diplomas

34. Under the original Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, Darlington was allocated to receive funding from 2013 onwards. However, the Government is currently reviewing the allocations of future waves of funding and has invited all authorities not currently part of the BSF programme to put forward an Expression of Interest demonstrating how they could be brought forward in the programme.
35. Expressions of Interest are currently being considered by the DCSF and Partnership for Schools and it is expected that an announcement will be made in March. The most positive outcome will be for Darlington to be invited to join the programme from 2009-10 in which case work can commence on redeveloping Hurworth, Longfield and Branksome schools.
36. Should the announcement not be favourable to bringing Darlington forward in the programme, feasibility work is being undertaken to consider priority areas for investment in the three schools to ensure investment is focused on key areas up until 2013.
37. Through a capital grant to support 14-19 Diploma development in Secondary Schools, Darlington has been allocated £8,000,000 over the two year period 2009-10 and 2010-11. This funding will either be used to support the larger BSF programme to increase the total funding package available to schools or, if Darlington is not invited to join the programme, will be used to undertake target areas of work at each of the three schools. For example, improved sports provision at Longfield School.
38. Any work undertaken to cover the interim period would be planned with the knowledge that the full BSF programme will follow, so that investment is not wasted by having to be relocated or removed in future years.



39. Release of funding of £8,000,000 is requested to develop the BSF programme further, depending on the outcome of the Expression of Interest. Should the BSF Expression of Interest be successful, a further more detailed Cabinet report will be presented, which will include a specific plan for this element of the funding.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

40. Each project or programme of works has been developed in full consultation with key stakeholders. By developing individual asset management plans for each school and linking to key strategic objectives, it is possible to ensure that all needs are highlighted and through dialogue, a comprehensive capital investment programme has been defined that begins to address the full range of needs at each school.
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