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CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13

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Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

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SUMMARY REPORT

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Members' agreement to:
  - (a) the proposed Children, Families and Learning Capital Programme for 2012/13;  
and
  - (b) releasing the capital funds in relation to this programme.

**Summary**

2. The Council has been allocated £3,478,258 for the period 2012-13 to support a range of projects and initiatives across Schools and Sure Start facilities in the Borough. **Appendix A** provides a full breakdown of all funding streams which are available.
3. All funding has proposed allocations in line with rigorous assessment processes that support Asset Management priorities.
4. **Appendix B** provides a full breakdown of each of the projects identified as a priority for the allocation of capital funding.
5. All projects will be managed in line with the Corporate Capital Process Review procedures.

**Recommendations**

6. It is recommended that Members :-
  - (a) agree to formally release the capital funding of £ 1,092,839 outlined in **Appendix A**
  - (b) agree the proposed prioritised capital investment programme for Children's Services identified in **Appendix B**, with delegated authority to the Director of

People to manage the authorisation of this funding.

## **Reasons**

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) Release of the funds will enable capital investment to be undertaken in the areas identified with the greatest need, in terms of asset management priorities and providing retrospective support, if required, where work has already been undertaken; and
  - (b) Detailed planning to identify priorities has been undertaken which ensures effective use of all investment.

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

## **Background Papers**

Schools Capital Allocations 2012 – 13  
School Place Planning Arrangements: Basic Need Funding For Heathfield Primary –  
Cabinet Report June 2012  
Mowden Schools Expansion – Project Update – Cabinet Report July 2012

Julia McCabe: Extension 2991

S17 Crime and Disorder	Capital investment to improve facilities and provide better building maintenance will contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	The capital strategy outlined in this report will continue the Council's drive to provide buildings that enhance children's life chances and opportunities to thrive.
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	All capital projects will add to the diversity of buildings and technology available in Darlington.
Wards Affected	With the inclusion of children's centres in addition to schools, 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	This report does not recommend a change to the budget and 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 Education (DfE) and bid-based submissions for Central Government funding programmes (compiled and submitted by Officers or individual schools).
9. **Appendix A** is a summary of each of the capital allocations available for 2012/13 along with explanatory notes on each funding stream. 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 is a variance to the Capital Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in the case of Basic Need and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) for Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. In addition to the original Basic Need 12/13 capital allocations announced in December 2011 (£1,371,110) a further £1,074,309 was allocated in April 2012. £807,916 of this funding has already been released by Cabinet: £175,000 for a one year 'bulge' expansion at Heathfield and £632,916 towards the Mowden Expansion. Regarding DFC for VA schools, the actual allocation is £8,642 less than the provisional allocation in the MTFP due to an adjustment by DfE following the confirmation of actual pupil numbers.

### Capital Funding & Academies

11. Capital Maintenance Funding is allocated to support maintained schools but additionally (since April 2011) DfE have stipulated that it should also be available to support Sure Start Centres within the authority. Once a school has converted to an Academy it is no longer eligible to be considered for this funding source.
12. Academies can apply direct to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for capital maintenance funding as required. The first bidding round to the Academy Maintenance Fund was held in Q3 2011/12. Several schools in Darlington were successful and the list of projects is provided here for information only:

Carmel College	Three classroom extension and roof replacement	£1,191,700
Longfield Academy of Sport	Window and roof replacement	£777,000
Darlington School of Mathematics and Science	Window replacement	£576,000
Heighington CE Primary School	Two classroom extension, remodel of existing accommodation and boiler replacement	£438,000
Hurworth School	Drainage and playground resurfacing	£140,000
Reid Street Primary School	Classroom refurbishment	£12,000

13. A second bidding round to the Academies Maintenance Fund concluded at the end of September 2012. Successful academies will be notified at the end of December and projects need to be completed by end of March 2013.

### **Capital Maintenance Programme of Works 2012/13 (Appendix B)**

14. The Local Authority has been allocated £633,896 to address capital maintenance needs within the maintained schools across the borough. The funding should be targeted to strategic priorities and condition need within school premises. The Children, Families and Learning section within People Services is responsible for ensuring all funding is targeted to meet the highest priority needs across maintained schools and the network of seven Sure Start facilities.

### **Prioritisation Process**

15. To guide local priorities for investment, officers work with Head Teachers of all maintained schools within the Borough to develop a Local Asset Management Plan Agreement (LAMPA) for each individual school. These plans are agreed in partnership with each school and concentrate on ensuring that school based Devolved Formula Capital is targeted to the highest need within each school. The LAMPAs also identify any larger or more complex priorities at the school which may require a greater level of capital investment from centrally held allocations. If identified, these projects are then brought forward for consideration against other strategic priorities.
16. As in previous years, there are also Borough-wide strategic priorities for which funding has been committed over and above individual school LAMPA priorities.
17. **Appendix B** provides information about each priority that has been put forward to show how the funding will be allocated. In addition the following section of the report provides some additional background information about key priorities that have been put forward.

### **Asset Management Costs**

18. This is funding to support central costs for undertaking annual surveys on school premises to support Asset Management Planning arrangements. Data collection includes: condition, suitability, sufficiency, software support charges, licence charges, fire regulation surveys and DDA surveys. In addition, a proportion of the personnel costs for the Schools Capital Schemes Team are top sliced from the available funding to support co-ordination of asset management arrangements.

### **Darlington School of Mathematics & Science**

19. A one off contribution to support remediation work to the swimming pool. The local authority pledged to work with the academy to resolve this issue as it first presented itself when the school was still maintained.

## **Hummersknott**

20. A one off contribution to support improvements to the plant room to avoid shut down of the heating system during extreme periods of cold weather. Like the agreement with DSMS (above) the local authority pledged to work with the academy to resolve this issue as it first presented itself when the school was still maintained.

## **Dodmire Primary School**

21. Dodmire School has a deficit of £53,378 on their Devolved Formula Capital account accrued during the PCP programme when the school make a commitment to this investment programme to improve facilities at the school. In a standard academy transfer the Local Authority can recover this debt from the Education Funding Agency; however it is unclear whether this applies to sponsored academies. Longfield Academy Trust is sponsoring Dodmire and the school hopes to convert on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. DBC Legal is taking advice from the DfE, but funding to cover the deficit is accounted for here as a contingency measure.

## **Home and Hospital Relocation**

22. Relocation of the Home and Hospital teaching base from temporary leased accommodation to a permanent fixed base provision within an educational setting.

## **Additional priorities identified through the LAMPA process**

23. WC refurbishments have been identified as required condition works in two of the authority's maintained schools: Corporation Road and High Coniscliffe Primaries.
24. Funding has been allocated to address damp problems at Whinfield Primary School. Additionally the floor coverings on both infant and junior hall floors are old and need replacing to ensure it they do not present a health and safety risk.
25. £30,000 has been identified to address suitability issues at Sure Start Centres. These potential works include adaptations to fencing and the replacement of play surfacing to ensure the continuing safety and quality of the outside environment for children.
26. The above projects are listed in priority order and have been discussed and considered with Head Teachers and Officers.
27. Once a school has converted to an Academy it is no longer eligible to be considered for an allocation under the Capital Maintenance funding source. If a school currently identified in **Appendix B** becomes an Academy before the funding is allocated they will be removed from the priority listing and any balance in funding re-directed to the maintained school sector. Academies can apply direct to the EFA for capital maintenance funding if required.

## **Urgent works/ Contingency**

28. The balance of the capital maintenance funding (£104,879) has been kept in reserve to cover any emergency works and a contingency for the schemes identified above. This will be monitored as the projects progress and, if possible, funding released for other schemes. Members are asked to delegate responsibility for approving the allocation of this funding to the Director of People initially for a 6 month period, any decisions taken after this period will be reported back to cabinet in due course.

## **Basic Need funding**

29. The Local Authority has been allocated £2,445,419 in 2012-13 to support the need for additional school places across the Authority. Unlike the capital maintenance funding, DfE have stipulated that the priorities for this allocation must be considered across all schools within the Borough, including maintained schools, Academies, Voluntary Aided schools and Free Schools.
30. For a number of years the authority has been experiencing a shortage of primary school places across the authority, with particular hot spots in certain areas of the town. The Primary Capital Programme directed funding to address the priority areas of concern at the time (increasing places at Alderman Leach [now West Park Academy] and Harrowgate Hill Primary schools) but other areas of the town are now becoming a priority. Cabinet released £175,000 of 12-13 Basic Need Funds in June 2012 for a one year 'bulge' expansion at Heathfield Primary School. In July £3,022,490 of 11/12 and 12/13 Basic Need funds was released by Cabinet for a 210 place expansion of The Federation of Mowden Schools. There is currently £1,637,503 of unreleased 12/13 Basic Need funding.
31. The School Organisation Plan 2012-2015 is currently out to consultation and will be presented to Cabinet early in the New Year. The plan will identify the most appropriate schools at which to provide additional places and outline how the remaining basic need funding should be committed. This paper seeks permission to release £60,000 of that remaining basic need funding now which would enable early feasibility work and the further development of the School Organisation Plan.

## **Conclusion**

32. 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. Through dialogue, a comprehensive capital investment programme has been defined that begins to address the full range of needs at each school, whilst managing the development of strategic priorities identified at the Local Authority level.