
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15

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

Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' agreement to:-
 - (a) The proposed Children, Families and Learning Capital Programme for 2014/15;
and
 - (b) The release of capital funds relating to this programme.

Summary

2. The Council has been allocated £769,679 for the period 2014-15 to support a range of projects and initiatives across Schools and Community Centres in the Borough. **Appendix A** provides a full breakdown of all funding streams which are available, and a breakdown of each of the projects identified as a priority for the allocation of capital funding.
3. All funding is allocated in line with rigorous assessment processes that support Asset Management priorities.
4. All projects will be managed in line with the Corporate Capital Process Review procedures.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Members:-
 - (a) Agree to formally release the capital funding of £769,679 outlined in Appendix A and agree the proposed prioritised capital investment programme for maintained schools and community centres, with delegated authority to the Director of People to manage the authorisation of this funding.
 - (b) Agree the proposed 'universal free school meals' 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

6. 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
 - (b) Detailed planning to identify priorities has been undertaken which ensures effective use of all investment.

Murray Rose
Director of People

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report
Rachel Kershaw: Extension 2026

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.
Sustainability	All work undertaken will be designed and constructed with sustainability in mind 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	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

7. 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).
8. Appendix A provides a summary of each of the capital allocations available for 2014/15. 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.

Capital Maintenance 14/15 Programme of Works (Appendix A)

9. 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 and Community Centres within the authority.
10. **Devolved Formula Capital** is a formula based grant provided to all maintained schools to help support the capital needs for their building. The funding allocated to the LA on a formulaic basis, the LA then allocates the funding directly to schools. This funding is invested in the priorities identified through the Local Asset Management Plan Agreement with Head Teachers.
11. The Local Authority has been allocated £287,403 (2013/2014) and £283,907 (2014/2015) to address capital maintenance needs within the maintained schools in the borough. The aim of the funding is to meet the 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 school, Community Centres and Sure Start facilities.
12. When a school has converted to an Academy it is no longer eligible to be considered for capital maintenance funding allocated to the LA, but can apply direct to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for funding. If a school currently identified in Appendix A becomes an Academy before the funding is released they will be removed from the priority listing and any balance in funding re-directed to the maintained school sector.

Prioritisation Process

13. 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.
14. Appendix A provides information about each project that has been recommended as a priority. Funding will be allocated to each of these schemes from within the

total resources available. In addition the following section of the report provides some additional background information about other key priorities that have been put forward.

Asset Management Costs

15. 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.

Urgent Works/Contingency

16. The balance of the capital maintenance funding has been kept in reserve to cover any emergency works and a contingency for the schemes identified in Appendix A. 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.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

17. The LA has been allocated £68,886 to alleviate the burden on the kitchen infrastructure in maintained schools in preparation for the introduction of a Government initiative to provide free school meals to all children from September 2014 in national curriculum year groups Reception, 1 and 2 (aged 4-6 years old).
18. In consultation with Head Teachers and kitchen staff of all maintained schools, a calculation has been undertaken to identify the potential demand in take-up of a free school meal for children previously not eligible. This calculation has then informed assessments of the capacity of current kitchen facilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand and to highlight the need for additional cooking equipment, dining furniture or physical space.
19. Appendix B provides a breakdown of the requirements at each school and the identified funding allocation required for each project. Feasibility studies are currently projecting that the project may be above the grant allocation. The DfE have accepted that this may be the case and expect the LA to prioritise the additional funding from the capital maintenance pot (decreasing the contingency funding). Current feasibility costs have confirmed that there is sufficient funding available across both funding streams to meet the cost of these projects.

Conclusion

20. Each project or programme of works has been developed in full consultation with key stakeholders. Individual asset management plans are developed for each school, linking to key strategic objectives. 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.