

CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/10**Report By: Schools Planning & Access Manager****Wards Affected**

Countywide

Purpose

1. To report the capital budget position for 2009/10 for the Children & Young People's Directorate.

Financial Implications

2. As set out in the report.

Background

3. **Planned capital spend**

- 3.1 The planned capital spend for 2009/10 is around £30,000,000.

4. **Development of the capital programme**

- 4.1 **Draft Asset Management Plan for the Children & Young People's Directorate**

- 4.1.1 Consultation will soon begin on a draft Asset Management Plan (AMP) for the Children & Young People's Directorate. Consultation will be undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The consultation will run until the mid autumn term 2009. The draft AMP will bring together all of the capital funding pots available to the Directorate. It will seek to provide objective criteria and a clear process for determining the Directorate's capital investment priorities. It will also ensure a 'joined up' planning approach, to ensuring best value is gained across all of the funding pots available, in support of the priorities of the Children's Trust's Children & Young People's Plan.

- 4.1.2 Cross directorate and corporate planning of capital spend, including close liaison with Herefordshire NHS, is being developed at a number of levels, including through a cross Directorate Asset Management Working Group and also corporately through the Corporate Strategic Asset Management Working Group.

5. **Update on capital schemes for 2009/10**

- 5.1 As part of the Government's drive to stimulate the economy, Herefordshire has received a proportion of next financial year's funding (2010/11) to spend in this financial year (2009/10). The Government wishes to see these advances spent with local small and medium sized businesses. All expenditure must be in line with schools' asset management plans.

These specific advances are:

Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,000,000
Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme - £500,000
Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - £1,385,543

All of the above amounts are included in the budget figures shown in the following paragraphs.

6. The Minster College – Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder - £21,000,000 (£7,201,349 to be spent in 2009/10)

- 6.1 This scheme continues to progress well and is on schedule to complete in the summer 2010.

- 6.2 While the new school has been designed to accommodate the upper end of possible future student numbers within the catchment area and, in time, from new housing, the school will have significant spare capacity when it opens. The local authority is working with the headteacher and governors to mitigate this and the possibility of operating a multi agency integrated children's services team from the new build is being explored and discussed.

7. The Hereford Academy - £23,000,000 (£9,066,000 to be spent in 2009/10)

- 7.1 Following a rigorous selection process through the set Department for Children, Schools and Families' academies procurement framework, the local authority has been working in partnership with the trustees and governors of The Hereford Academy to develop the design of the preferred bidder, Willmott Dixon Construction. The tendered bid is within the funding available from the DCSF. A detailed planning application was submitted in May and, subject to planning approval, the Final Business Case should be approved by Partnerships for Schools in late summer, allowing Willmott Dixon Construction to commence work in September 2009. The new buildings are due to complete in the spring of 2011. Students and staff will then move into the new buildings, allowing for the existing buildings to be demolished and the final external areas to be landscaped. The whole scheme is due to complete in the autumn of 2011.

8. Primary Capital Programme - £3,000,000 (2009/10) + £5,378,000 (2010/11)

- 8.1 This is a national Government fourteen year funding programme for major investment in primary schools and primary age special schools. Herefordshire will receive its first year's allocation of £3,000,000 this financial year and £5,378,000 in 2010/11, giving a total of £8,378,000 over the two financial

years. Funding amounts beyond this have not yet been announced by Government.

- 8.2 Cabinet has committed £7.378,000 of the first two year's funding to the building of a new all through primary school in Leominster, to replace the current Leominster Infant and Leominster Junior schools. A Project Team has been formed, comprising of the headteachers and governor representatives of the current schools and local authority Children's Services, Property Services and Human Resources officers, to deliver the new build school and to carry out the statutory school reorganisation process to establish the new school. Amey will provide the consultant architect and design service.
- 8.3 Herefordshire's Primary Strategy for Change identifies the balance of the funding from the Year 1 and Year 2 allocations, £500,000, as being available as a 'match funding pot'. The draft Asset Management Plan will propose a mechanism for primary schools to bid for funding for capital schemes from the 'match funding pot'.

9 Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) - £1,600,000

- 9.1 Capital funds for Voluntary Aided schools are allocated to local authorities from the DCSF. In conjunction with the Roman Catholic Diocese, the Anglican Diocesan and Staunton-on-Wye School, which is Herefordshire's only non-denominational voluntary aided school, the local authority coordinates the programme of investment. The works identified are either large maintenance schemes or improvement schemes, although certain ICT installations are also permitted. The figures quoted are always in 100% but 10% has to be found locally using School's revenue budget or the Trustees' own account. Bids are invited from aided Schools around June/July each year with submissions having to be made by the end of September. The DCSF are advised of the programme by the end of November of each year. Any scheme approved requires competitive tenders to be obtained and submitted to the DCSF for approval. Grants are paid on receipt of invoices and the final account requires receipted invoices and certificates of completion from the professional advisors.
- 9.2 The proposed programme for 2009/10 is:

St Joseph's RC Primary – completion of new school hall -	£300,000
Pembridge C of E Primary – Remodelling of accommodation -	£300,000
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School – Boiler replacement -	£100,000
- Re-roofing -	£30,000
Staunton on Wye Primary School – contribution to school build	£300,000
St Paul's C of E Primary – Replacement roof	£55,000
St Michael's C of E Primary – kitchen conversion -	£17,000
Leintwardine C of E Primary – Admin/staff area remodelling -	£150,000
St Mary's C of E, Fownhope – replace rooflights -	£30,000
St Mary's RC High – Re-roofing	£40,000
- upgrade lighting to classrooms	£40,000
Whitchurch C of E Primary – Re-roofing	£60,000
Brampton Abbots Primary – remodelling	£128,000
Access contingency (to meet DDA requirements)	£50,000

10 Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,940,828

10.1 This allocation is managed by the Council's Asset Management and Property Services Team to address the highest condition issues. The allocation includes £250,000 specifically for work to prevent legionella and £100,000 to refurbish and re-site mobile classrooms where appropriate.

11. 14 to 19 and Special Education Needs Grant - £2,000,000 (2009/10) + £6,000,000 (2010/11)

11.1 Together with the 14 – 19 Partnership, the local authority is exploring an option to provide a facility, predominantly for post 16, but also some 14 + year olds, ideally to be located close to the Folly Lane Colleges in Hereford. This would be a practical learning centre for young people at Level 1 and below, including learners with learning difficulties or disabilities (LLDD) /special educational needs (SEN). Such a provision would ease the pressure on Barrs Court Special School and provide links with the Colleges. It would be a learning resource for courses under the Foundation Learning Tier and possibly some Level 2 courses which are practical in nature. It could also be a venue for some young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or pre-NEET engagement courses.

12. Alternative Provision Capital Grant - £850,000 (2009/10) + £884,000 (2010/11)

12.1 Last summer, the local authority was successful in its bid to the DCSF to acquire funding for a pilot project to establish alternative provision for children who would otherwise be excluded from school. The bid has attracted a capital grant totalling £1,734,000 and also some revenue funding.

12.2 John Kyrle High School and John Masefield High School will be the first two schools to benefit from this funding. For September 2009, both of these schools will have dedicated accommodation for alternative provision, or 'intervention', to support pupils who might otherwise be excluded.

12.3 Feasibility studies are being carried out at Aylestone High, Whitecross High, The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, St Mary's RC High, The Hereford Academy and Kingstone High, to provide dedicated accommodation for alternative provision by 31st March 2010.

12.4 The allocation of the funding for 2010/11 has not yet been decided.

13 Playbuilder – £526,332 (2009/10) + £593,285 (2010/11)

13.1 The local authority has been successful in its bid to the DCSF for capital grant funding totalling £1,119,617 from the Playbuilder scheme.

13.2 The Playbuilder scheme is about providing play sites for 8-13 year olds that are fully inclusive in terms of diversity and disability, have support from the

local community, permission from the landowner, encourage risk and challenge and make the most of the natural environment.

- 13.3 This is a two year project to develop 22 play sites, 11 in each year. 11 sites have been identified for development this financial year and officers from the Children and Young People's Directorate are working with colleagues from Parks, Countryside and Leisure and the third sector to consult communities, and in particular young people, on the facilities they would like to see developed in their area.
- 13.4 The project is being externally audited on behalf of the DCSF by Play England which provides a monthly 'RAG rating' report to Ministers. Play England is very pleased with Herefordshire's progress to date and the project management arrangements. Consequently, the current 'RAG rating' is 'Green'.

14 Riverside Primary School - £1,187,632 (2009/10)

- 14.1 This scheme has been delayed due to the appointed contractor going into administration. A contract has now been put in place with another contractor to complete the scheme. Pupils and staff will move into their new facilities in the autumn term 2009.

15 Holmer Flood Alleviation - £179,419 (2009/10)

- 15.1 Immediate preventative works have been carried out, but the main work will be undertaken this financial year.

16 Accessibility – Individual Pupil Needs - £389,560 (2009/10)

- 16.1 budget is used to address specific accessibility issues for pupils who would otherwise be disabled from accessing the curriculum. A number of schemes have been carried forward from last financial year for completion this year. Officers are currently assessing works which will be carried out this year, ready for pupils starting primary school, or transferring to high school in September 2010.

17 Children's Centres - £594,842 (2009/10)

- 17.1 Widemarsh Children's Centre opened in May 2009. Tenders are now in for the remodelling work required at Hollybush Children's Centre, which is due to be completed this financial year.

18 Quality & Access for all young children - £1,324,268 (2009/10)

- 18.1 This is grant funded by the DCSF and is aimed at improving the quality of, and/or access to quality early years provision, particularly in the private,

voluntary and independent sectors. A Quality & Access Project Board has been established to invite and evaluate bids from early years providers for grant funding aimed at schemes which will improve quality and/or access. An initial round of bids has focused on ICT, accommodation and outdoor play space. Consideration is now being given to the focus of further bidding rounds. A report on the grants made will form part of the regular Capital Budget Report to Children's Scrutiny Committee in the autumn 2009.

19 Section 106 - £320,661 of developer contributions to spend within time-scales which are specific to individual contributions.

- 19.1 The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local authority to negotiate financial contributions from developers in respect of infrastructure and services. The Council's Planning Obligation Supplementary Planning Guidance document provides a framework for negotiating contributions for Children & Young People's Services, including schools.
- 19.2 Contributions are used to meet the highest asset management plan priorities of the individual school, or groups of schools/establishments in an area, if specific schools are not named.
- 19.3 The following Section 106 developer contributions are currently held by the Children & Young People's Directorate:
- 19.3.1 The Bradbury Lines, Hereford, developer contribution of £182,443 is provided for education facilities in the area. Possible beneficiaries are: St. Martin's Primary, Our Lady's RC Primary, Marlbrook Primary and Blackmarston Special School. While there is potential to spend this money at any one, or all of these schools, the highest asset management plan priorities are currently being assessed in order to provide an objective analysis of the priorities for capital investment. The deadline for spend is 25th January 2011.
- 19.3.2 The Pentland Gardens, Hereford, developer contribution of £46,878 for Trinity Primary School will be spent on toilet refurbishments in 2009/10.
- 19.3.3 The Bullingham Lane developer contribution of £34,090 for St. Martin's Primary School will be spent on providing outdoor shade/weather shelter facilities and an extension to house reprographics facilities, which currently occupy a corridor space.
- 19.3.4 The Withies Road (2) developer contribution of £39,407 will be spent in 2009/10 upon agreement with Withington Primary School and Aylestone High School on the highest asset management plan priority(ies) to be addressed.
- 19.3.5 The Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, developer contribution of £9,000 will be spent in 2009/10 to help provide sufficient Year 7 places at John Kyrle High School for September 2009.

19.3.6 The balance of £8,842 from the Old Road, Bromyard development will be spent by St Peter's Primary School in 2009/10.

20 Extended Schools Grants - £321,426 (2009/10)

20.1 Extended schools providers are invited to bid for capital grants through a 2 stage process. The first stage is for the bidder to seek agreement in principle to grant funding towards their particular project. If bids are approved in principle, then the applicant is invited to submit a full business case. Upon approval of the business case, a grant is then made.

20.2 A report on the grants made will form part of the regular Capital Budget Report to Children's Scrutiny Committee in the autumn 2009.

21 Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - £3,688,535

21.1 Devolved directly to schools to spend on their highest asset management plan priorities.

22 Harnessing Technology Grant - £1,224,968

22.1 Grant devolved to schools last year. Schools have until August 2009 to spend. The Council will monitor spend to ensure that the devolved grant allocations are spent by 31st August.

23 Co-location of services – £1,198,025 (2009/10)

23.1 The local authority has been successful in its bid to the DCSF for capital funding to provide co-located services. The full funding, over two years, is £2.2m. This will support the move towards the provision of integrated services through locality based teams. Feasibility studies are underway to explore possible locations and venues for co-located services.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None