

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	28 SEPTEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ICT, ACHIEVEMENT & EDUCATION

CLASSIFICATION: Open –

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

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

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Committee note and comment on the report as part of its scrutiny function.

Key Points Summary

- With the exception of previously reported delays with the delivery of The Riverside School and the Holmer Flood Alleviation Scheme, the capital programme is being delivered on time and to budget.

Alternative Options

- 1 This report is a monitoring report. There are alternatives in terms of the format if Scrutiny Committee wishes to have information presented in a different way.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Monitoring report

Introduction and Background

- 3 This report provides a summary of the planned capital expenditure for the Children & Young People's Directorate in 2009/2010.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Rob Reid, Head of Access & Capital Commissioning on (01432) 260920

Planned capital expenditure for 2009/10 is around £30 million.

Key Considerations

4. Update on capital schemes for 2009/10

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

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

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 continues to work with the headteacher and governors to mitigate this. An area of surplus capacity is being developed to accommodate a multi agency integrated children's services team within the new building.

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

Planning permission for the new build has been approved. At the time of writing this report, approval of the final business case by Partnerships for Schools is imminent. This will release the funding for the project and Willmott Dixon Construction will then commence work immediately. The scheme is within budget and 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.

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

This is the 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.

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.

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'. Consultation with schools will take place this autumn on a mechanism for primary schools to bid for funding for capital schemes from the 'match funding pot' and the criteria to be used to determine priorities for receiving funding.

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

Capital funds for Voluntary Aided schools are allocated to local authorities from the Department for Children Schools and Families. 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 Department for Children Schools and Families 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 Department for Children Schools and Families for approval. Grants are paid on receipt of invoices and the final account requires receipted invoices and certificates of completion from the professional advisors.

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 Disability Discrimination Act requirements)	£50,000

4.5 **Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,940,828**

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.

4.6 **14 to 19 and Special Education Needs Grant - £2,000,000 (2009/10) + £6,000,000 (2010/11)**

Priorities for spend are to be determined as part of the review of Special Educational Needs provision. A paper outlining options will be considered by Cabinet.

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

Last summer, the Local Authority was successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families 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.

The first school to benefit from this funding is John Masefield High School which opened its new provision at the beginning of this autumn term. Provision at John Kyrle High School is due to be available by the autumn half term. This is later than the intended September start date due to a delay in the relocation of a gas supply meter by British Gas. Feasibility studies are being carried out at all other high schools to provide dedicated accommodation for alternative provision at each high school by 31st March 2011.

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

The Local Authority has been successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families for capital grant funding totalling £1,119,617 from the Playbuilder scheme.

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.

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.

The project is being externally audited on behalf of the Department for Children Schools and Families by Play England which provides a monthly 'Red/Amber/Green', or 'RAG' rating report to Ministers. Play England is very pleased with Herefordshire's progress to date and the project management arrangements. The latest monitoring meeting took place with Play England on 8th September and the current 'RAG rating' is 'Green'.

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

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 at the end of the autumn term 2009.

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

Immediate preventative works have been carried out. The council is dependent upon receipt of a flood modelling survey from the Environment Agency before further work is done. The main work will be undertaken in the spring of 2010.

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

This 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.

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

Hollybush and Peterchurch Children's Centres are progressing well and are due to complete in November 2009. Plans for the extension of Springfield Children's Centre are being prepared and options are being considered for the provision of children's centre services to the north of the County.

4.13 Quality & Access for early years provision - £1,324,268 (2009/10)

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 December 2009.

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

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.

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.

The following Section 106 developer contributions are currently held by the Children & Young People's Directorate:

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 by officers in order to provide an objective analysis of the priorities for capital investment. Options will be reported to the Cabinet Member for consideration. The deadline for spend is 25th January 2011.

The Pentland Gardens, Hereford, developer contribution of £46,878 for Trinity Primary School will be spent on toilet refurbishments in 2009/10. This scheme was undertaken during the school summer holiday.

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 accommodate reprographics facilities, which currently occupy a corridor space.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Local Authority has, on behalf of Herefordshire's Children's Trust, been successful in its bid to the Department for Children Schools and Families 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.

Community Impact

- 5 The capital investment programme of the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools and early years settings, has wide ranging community impacts, benefiting children and young people and their families across Herefordshire

Financial Implications

- 6 These are contained in the body of the report.

Legal Implications

- 7 The use of capital funding including grants must comply with the legal requirements associated with each funding stream and the conditions of specific grants

Risk Management

- 8 The risks are set out in the body of the report, in terms of project delays and the actions planned to mitigate the impact of these.

Consultees

- 9 Not applicable.

Appendices

- 10 None.

Background Papers

- None identified.