

MEETING:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	11 DECEMBER 2009
TITLE OF REPORT:	CAPITAL BUDGET REPORT 2009/2010
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE

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

- The overall capital programme is being delivered on time and to budget.
- The Final Business Case for The Hereford Academy new build was approved by Partnerships for Schools on 20th November 2009. This brings £23,923,712 of Government funding to Herefordshire and, following the competitive procurement process through The National Academies Framework, now allows Herefordshire Council to appoint Willmott Dixon Construction to deliver this scheme on behalf of The Hereford Academy Trustees. While this is very welcome news, the approval process has been protracted, with implications for the programme and budget which officers will seek to mitigate in partnership with The Hereford Academy Trustees and Willmott Dixon Construction. See paragraph 4.2.
- Herefordshire has negotiated a further £419,000 to deliver accommodation for alternative provision in each of the 14 high schools. See paragraph 4.7.

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.

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

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.

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 (£12,201,349 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 and other accommodation is being adapted to provide a facility for alternative provision (see paragraph 4.7).

- 4.2 **The Hereford Academy - £23,923,712 (£9,066,000 to be spent in 2009/10)**

The Final Business Case for The Hereford Academy new build was approved by Partnerships for Schools on 20th November 2009. This brings £23,923,712 of Government funding to Herefordshire and, following a competitive procurement process, through The National Academies Framework, allows Herefordshire Council to appoint Willmott Dixon Construction to deliver this scheme on behalf of The Hereford Academy Trustees. While this is very welcome news, the approval process has been protracted. There have certainly been some learning points for the Local Authority in this, its first encounter with the National Academies Framework, but officers feel that there is also scope to simplify and shorten the approval process adopted by Partnerships for Schools. Officers will be feeding back constructive comments and suggestions to Partnerships for Schools which it hopes will benefit local authorities and their partners who are engaged in such projects in future.

The result of the approval process means that the school decanting to the new building in the early summer of 2011, rather than the spring term. Officers are working with The Academy Trustees and Willmott Dixon Construction to mitigate the affect on the programme and cost of Willmott Dixon Construction keeping a presence on site during this period.

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 are providing 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 early in the spring term 2010 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 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

All of the above schemes have either been completed or are on schedule to complete successfully before the end of this financial year.

4.5 Capital Maintenance Programme - £1,968,486

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, alongside a consideration of priorities established from the 14 – 19 agenda. A paper outlining options will be considered by Cabinet.

4.7 Alternative Provision Capital Grant - £378,000 (2009/10) + £1,775,000 (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 attracted a capital grant totalling £1,734,000 and also some revenue funding. Officers have been working with all Herefordshire high schools to design and deliver appropriate accommodation. In November 2009, Herefordshire successfully negotiated an extra £419,000 capital funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This will allow the Local Authority to deliver in full the accommodation plans which have been drawn up with every high school.

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 opened earlier this autumn term. Officers are working with the remaining high schools to provide dedicated accommodation for alternative provision at each 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 'RAG rating' is 'Green'.

As requested at the last meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee, a briefing document on Playbuilder has been circulated to Members.

4.9 Riverside Primary School - £1,235,693 (2009/10)

This scheme has been delayed due to the appointed contractor going into administration. A new contractor has been appointed to complete the works. Handover of the new accommodation is imminent with plans in place for pupils and staff to start using their new building from the beginning of the spring term in January.

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.

Following a query at the last Committee meeting, a briefing note has been provided to Members on the Local Authority's responsibility in this scheme.

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 - £1, 542,560 (2009/10)

Hollybush will soon change its name to South Meadow Children's Centre. Works at this centre and at Peterchurch Children's Centre are now complete. 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.

4.14 Section 106 - £536,287 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 has been 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 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 has been 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.

Kington (land west of Old Eardisley Road). £92,000. £62,000 of this to Lady Hawkins High School towards eco toilet refurbishment and ICT equipment. £32,000 to Kington Primary School to improve outdoor hard play areas.

Kington (Maesydari Site) contribution of £62,000. £44,000 of this has been allocated to Lady Hawkins High School for improvements to performing arts facilities and £18,000 Kington Primary School for toilet refurbishments.

Leominster Police Station site contribution of £24,000. Pending decision on proposed amalgamation of Leominster Infant and Junior Schools.

4.15 Extended Schools Grants - £462,392 (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.

4.16 Schools' Devolved Formula Capital - £3,663,535

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

4.17 Co-location of services – £2,396,050 in total. £157,700 (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 £2.4m. This will support the move towards the provision of integrated services through locality based teams. Sites for co-located services have been identified at The new build Minster College, Kington Youth/Children's Centre, Ledbury Primary School, Ryefield Children's Centre, Ross-on-Wye, Greencroft Children's Centre, and the Hope Centre Bromyard. A second Hereford City site, north of the River Wye has yet to be determined.

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.