

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12
DATE OF DECISION:	6 JUNE 2011
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals for the distribution of available resources within the Children's Services and Learning Capital Programme for 2011/12. The report seeks approval for proposals to spend both the Capital Maintenance and 14-19 Diplomas, SEN and Disabilities Grants, with a proposed total spend profile of £8.6 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Subject to complying with Financial and Contract Procedure Rules, to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning, to do anything necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
- (ii) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £3,474,600 to the Children's Services and Learning Capital Programme, funded from Capital Maintenance Grant, for the following schemes:
 - £1,353,000 Special school estate;
 - £1,000,000 Pupil Referral Unit;
 - £400,000 School Solar Power Installation;
 - £200,000 Health and Safety;
 - £100,000 Asbestos Management; and
 - £421,600 School Capital Maintenance.
- (iii) To vire, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules, a sum of £5,147,000 from the 14-19 Diplomas, SEN and Disabilities budget to the following schemes:
 - £4,500,000 Secondary School estate; and
 - £647,000 Special School estate.
- (iv) To approve, in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules, capital expenditure of £1,121,600 from the Children's Services and Learning Capital Programme, for the following projects:
 - £400,000 School Solar Power Installation;
 - £200,000 Health and Safety;
 - £100,000 Asbestos Management; and
 - £421,600 School Capital Maintenance.

- (v) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Resources to take any action necessary to facilitate the use and occupation of the Former Millbrook Community School site for the provision of children's services, including services ancillary to those functions, subject to compliance with any statutory requirements. This delegation shall include, but is not limited to, the power to grant or acquire property and contractual interests in the site to deliver such services.
- (vi) To note that further reports requesting approval to spend will be brought back to Cabinet presenting detailed proposals for the Secondary and Special Estates and investment in the Pupil Referral Unit.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. With the advent of the 2011/12 financial year, SCC's Children's Services and Learning (CSL) Directorate is now in receipt of capital grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE), targeted at investment in the CSL estate. With the Basic Need Grant having been allocated to the Primary Review (via a previous Cabinet decision), it is felt that the other funds available to the Directorate should be focussed on those other elements that comprise the estate.
2. CSL has a number of urgent priorities for investment, which are highlighted within this report. As such, the above recommendations seek to ensure that the resources available to the Authority are allocated to these proposals, in order that the relevant projects can be commenced.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. The proposals contained within this paper represent the means by which CSL can best deliver on its objectives/responsibilities in terms of school organisation and estate maintenance. The option of not allocating the available grant funding to these proposals would necessarily result in a delay in project commencement and, potentially, a failure to deliver on key objectives for the current financial year. In particular, the secondary school estate has a significant profile of backlog maintenance issues, which will only be compounded if not addressed. In the worst case scenario, this could result in serious health and safety issues arising at relevant schools. As such, this option has implicitly been rejected.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. It is key that the allocation of funding to capital projects is in line with corporate priorities and responsibilities. In terms of this, CSL has defined the investment priorities for 2011/12 as being as detailed below.

5. Secondary school estate investment

The secondary school estate, in particular, has a significant profile of backlog maintenance issues. This is due, in part, to the fact that investment in ongoing maintenance had been lessened when it had been thought that the secondary estate would be largely rebuilt under Building Schools for the Future. In the absence of this investment, it is now critical that investment is made to address key maintenance and suitability issues across the secondary estate.
6.

The proposals for individual secondary schools are being developed following consultation with all of the schools concerned. Initial meetings were held with individual schools to go through their priorities for investment, in tandem with a consideration of the key issues identified within the condition surveys pertaining to their buildings. This was followed-up by a discussion of the contents of this report at the Secondary Heads Forum, as well as further meetings with Head Teachers to discuss the investment decisions made.
7. Special school estate investment

Investment in the city's special school estate is also a key corporate priority. Again, maintenance and suitability issues are present within this element of the estate. As such, funding needs to be directed to address these issues.
8. Pupil Referral Unit investment

The accommodation for the City's Pupil Referral Unit is deemed to be unsuitable for the educational provision that it seeks to provide. A review of this provision is currently being undertaken and it is accepted that capital funding will have to be allocated to tailoring buildings to the specific educational needs that this unit provides for and seeks to provide for in the future.
9.

It is proposed that further reports to Cabinet will be submitted requesting approval to spend against these three budgets once detailed proposals have been developed and feasibility work completed.
10. School solar power installation

Capital investment in solar panels on school buildings is a key corporate priority for CSL. It is estimated that investment of £500,000 (£100,000 of which is available from within the existing Capital Programme) in such infrastructure will result in additional income to the Council from the feed in tariff of approximately £40,000 per year for the next 25 years. The investment will also secure discounted electricity to schools leading to lower energy costs.
11. Compliance Items

CSL also has a number of additional ongoing compliance responsibilities within its school estate. Firstly, there is a need to put together a package of Health and Safety works. Included within this as key priorities are capital requirements emerging from the Fire Risk Assessments currently being undertaken, as well as an extraction system maintenance programme for school kitchens. Secondly, it has a responsibility to provide an ongoing programme of asbestos management. Both of these issues represent statutory responsibilities and, as such, require capital funds to be allocated to them.

12. School capital maintenance

In addition, it is also important that a certain element of the identified funding is “held back” as a contingency fund, in order to provide for unforeseen issues/events that may arise throughout the course of the year. Best practice in this area is to allow for a contingency element of roughly 5%.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13. For the 2011/12 financial year, the council will receive Capital Maintenance Grant from the Department for Education totalling £3,474,600
14. In addition, £5,147,000 is available to spend, in the form of a previous grant allocation for 14-19 Diplomas, SEN and Disabilities. This grant was previously earmarked for the Building Schools for the Future programme.
15. In line with the above priorities, it is proposed that the available capital funds be allocated as follows:

Investment Type	Amount (£)
Secondary School Estate	4,500,000
Special School Estate	2,000,000
Pupil Referral Unit	1,000,000
School Solar Power Installation	400,000
Health and Safety	200,000
Asbestos Management	100,000
School Capital Maintenance	421,600
Total	8,621,600

16. It is anticipated that these proposals, in reducing the overall profile of backlog maintenance, will reduce pressure on maintenance (revenue) budgets in forthcoming years.

Property/Other

17. All works will require Landlord Consent.
18. However, the overall backlog is sufficiently large that this funding will only address a few of the most urgent issues.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19. The Education Act 1996 places a duty on Local Authorities to secure and maintain sufficient school places to meet the needs of the area. The power to provide ancillary facilities and services is provided by S111 Local Government Act 1972 as matters ancillary to, conducive to or calculated to facilitate the exercise of the Council’s children’s services functions.

Other Legal Implications:

20. Not Applicable.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

21. The capital investment proposed for Southampton’s schools within this report will contribute to the outcomes of both the 14-19 Strategy and Children and Young People’s Plan by improving the condition, suitability and efficiency of the City’s school estate. Some of the investment that is brought forth under these proposals will likely have to be mindful of the Local Transport Plan. Alignment of the proposals with the aims of this plan will be achieved through the involvement of relevant officers on the appropriate project steering group(s).

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KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members’ Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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