

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Tuesday 17 March 2020

at 4.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Hamilton, Harrison, Lauderdale, Little, Moore, Smith, Ward.

Co-opted Members: Jo Heaton, C of E Diocese and Joanne Wilson, RC Diocese representatives.

School Heads Representatives: Mark Tilling (Secondary), David Turner (Primary), Zoe Westley (Special).

Six Young Peoples Representatives

Observer: Councillor Little, Chair of Adult and Community Based Services Committee

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 (*previously circulated and published*).
- 4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

No items



5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 2020/21 Schools' Capital Works Programme – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 No items.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Community Support Team – Update Report – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 7.2 Outcome of Education Services Grant Disapplication Request 2020/21 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

17 March 2020



Report of: Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: 2020/21 SCHOOLS' CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

1. TYPE OF DECISION

- 1.1 Key Decision - test (i) & (ii) apply
- 1.2 Forward Plan Reference Number: **CJCS97/19**

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the 2020/21 Schools' Capital Works Programme, as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**, in order to progress the design and detailed costing exercise in time for the majority of projects to be carried out during the summer holiday period. **This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each year, during January or February, the Department for Education (DfE) announces capital funding allocations, these being School Condition Allocations (SCA) – formerly known as Capital Maintenance and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), for the school estate in Hartlepool both for the local authority (LA) and the Voluntary Aided (VA) sector.
- 3.2 At the time of writing this report, capital funding allocations had not been communicated to the LA. However, the DfE have previously stated that SCA allocations for a current year would be indicative of the funding that responsible bodies will receive in future years. DfE further stated that SCA will be revised annually to reflect any schools moving to a different responsible body e.g. converting to academy status, opening or closing. During 2019/20 (financial year), one community school converted to academy status. As this conversion concluded in February 2020 (last month), it is not

expected that the 2020/21 SCA allocation will be reduced due to the timing of the conversion.

4. FUNDING

- 4.1 School Condition Allocation is a grant to the LA for all maintained community schools and is aimed at addressing condition needs in existing school premises, but does not include academies who receive funding from a Condition Improvement Fund, direct from the Education & Skills Funding Agency.
- 4.2 Devolved Formula Capital is a relatively limited capital allocation made directly to schools via the LA to support small scale projects and ICT development. Schools often use this allocation to fund their 10% contributions to larger capital schemes
- 4.3 This report is seeking approval for the schemes proposed in confidential **APPENDIX A** and will be funded from the 2020/21 SCA, the 2019/20 unallocated funding and remaining 2019/20 contingency. Schools are also expected to contribute a minimum of 10% towards the condition schemes.
- 4.4 Detailed in Table 1 below is the total funding available for condition works. Table 2 details the total costs of schemes proposed, the contingency sum for 2020/21 and the total funding required. Although Members are asked to approve works and contingency totalling £940,400, which slightly exceeds the available funding, all schemes have a contingency figure built into the estimated costs, therefore officers are confident that the proposed programme is affordable. The programme will be carefully managed to ensure there is no risk of overspending.

Table 1	£
20/21 SCA Funding*	646,158
19/20 Unallocated	141,766
19/20 Unused Contingency	70,000
10% School contributions	72,840
Total Available	930,764

*anticipated allocation

Table 2	£
Condition Schemes	728,400
Contingency	65,000
Rift House Sprinkler System	42,000
Perimeter Wall/Fencing	105,000
Total Required	940,400

- 4.5 In addition to the SCA, Children's Services Committee have previously approved projects which have been funded from universal free school meals which was a one-off grant allocation to assist schools to offer every pupil in reception, year 1 and 2 a free school meal. The projects are detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A** will utilise the remaining funding allocation.

5. CONTINGENCY

- 5.1 As in previous years, the overall programme recommended to Committee for approval includes a separate contingency fund which has been allocated from the SCA. This will continue to ensure that urgent but unforeseen items can be addressed, should the need arise.
- 5.2 Other than in response to an emergency situation, there will be no significant variation to the programme of works as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**.
- 5.3 Within the 2019/20 programme there was a contingency allocation of £70,000. There was no call upon this funding and therefore no expenditure.

6. SPECIAL PROVISION CAPITAL FUND (SPCF)/BASIC NEED

- 6.1 In March 2017, the DfE announced Special Provision Capital Fund (SPCF) allocations to all local authorities. This new funding is to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- 6.2 In May and December 2018, the DfE announced top-up of the Special Provision Capital Fund; a further £116,279 and £232,558 (respectively) was allocated to the LA. Members have previously approved funding to create an additional 5 places for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Catcote Academy. At this time there was only limited funding available and the project focused on a demountable being positioned within the school grounds. However, on further investigation, the accommodation was found not to be fit for purpose.
- 6.3 In addition to the ASD provision and to meet current and future projected need, the LA special education needs and disabilities (SEND) Commissioning Team have reviewed the profile of learners.
- 6.4 Due to an increased number of requests for year 6 statutory assessments, the Commissioning and SEN Team are working with primary schools to model and project pupil numbers, for those currently in years 3, 4 and 5 to establish who is likely to come forward for statutory assessment within the primary phase of their education. This will allow officers to forecast what type of provision will be required to meet need within mainstream and special schools for academic year 2021/22 and beyond.
- 6.5 A feasibility study has begun at Catcote Academy and to be able to meet the demand for SEND places required now and in future years it is proposed to modify the area of the school which accommodates students with Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), which includes storage for large items of equipment and changing facilities. To also create an area for the ASD students (referred in 6.2 above) and provide additional classrooms for the expected increase in student numbers. An initial design has been proposed,

however, the Trust continue to work with the LA to establish what provision would need to look like to be able to fully deliver the curriculum.

- 6.6 Members are to note that the proposals will be subject to ongoing feasibility and procurement exercise, relevant planning, building control approvals being obtained, the Academy agreeing to the increased capacity and a commissioning agreement put in place.
- 6.7 The initial costs are detailed in **APPENDIX A** and it is proposed to utilise the remaining Special Provision Capital Fund and also some Basic Need funding. However, should any further SPCF be allocated by DfE in the near future, this funding will be used.
- 6.8 Members are therefore asked to approve the use of the Special Provision Capital and Basic Need funds to modify and provide additional capacity at Catcote Academy, as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**.

7. HART PRIMARY SCHOOL WALL COLLAPSE - UPDATE

- 7.1 The western elevation wall at Hart Primary School partially collapsed after a spell of bad weather. In July 2018, Members subsequently approved funding to rebuild the western boundary (stone wall) and to also provide railings offset from western, northern and eastern boundaries.
- 7.2 To enable the railings to be erected, a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) application was made. However, following meetings with and recommendations from Historic England representatives, the application was withdrawn pending the request of various surveys. The surveys have now been undertaken and the revised SMC application has been made. Officers are expecting the outcome from the Secretary of State within the next 2 months. Costs for the wall and railings have now been obtained. Due to a requirement to implement a retaining element to the wall to increase structural stability and longevity, costs have increased and further funding is required, these are detailed within the list of condition works detailed within confidential **APPENDIX A**.

8. PRIORITY SCHOOL BUILD PROGRAMME (PSBP) PHASE 2 - UPDATE

- 8.1 In 2016, Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed that High Tunstall College of Science and English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College would form part of the Phase 2 programme for PSBP.
- 8.2 In November 2016, initial scoping meetings took place with the ESFA, who confirmed that the main teaching blocks and administration areas were included in the scope of works for High Tunstall. However, one of the blocks – 'D' block (previously known as Thornhill) is not included in the scope of works. The art/music blocks and demountables at English Martyrs also not included.

- 8.3 In early 2018, planning approvals were obtained for both new school builds. Building works completed in September and November 2019. Both new schools are now occupied. The second phase of the works have now begun. This involves the demolition of the old school buildings. It is expected phase two will be completed and the land converted to playing field by the end of July 2020 for English Martyrs and November 2020 for High Tunstall.

9. PROCUREMENT

- 9.1 All works of a non-specialist nature will be offered to the in-house Construction Team. If they decline, then the works will be externally procured in accordance with the Council's procurement rules.
- 9.2 All in-house work that utilises subcontractors and suppliers or work of a specialist nature will be procured in accordance with the Council's procurement rules.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The report is concerned with the condition, protection and development of Council assets i.e. school buildings.
- 10.2 The proposed programme of school condition works has been compiled on the basis of those areas/sections of school buildings which are showing clear signs of failure; those aspects of buildings which have the potential to improve teaching and learning; and those aspects which will prevent possible loss of school days due to emergency school closures.

11. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 If the schemes detailed in the attached confidential **APPENDIX A** are approved, funding can be met from the 2020/21 Schools Condition Allocation, current unallocated capital funding, together with school contributions.

12. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no legal considerations.

13. CONSULTATION

- 13.1 At its meeting of the 30 January 2020, members of the Schools Capital Sub Group considered the condition priorities detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**.

14. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

14.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations.

15. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

15.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

16. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

16.1 There are no staff considerations.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 Members are recommended to:

- a) Approve the schedule of 2020/21 capital condition works programme as summarised in confidential **APPENDIX A**, subject to the LA agreeing contributions from schools towards individual schemes in line with the shared funding principles established by the Schools Forum.
- b) Approve the use of the Special Provision Capital Fund and Basic Need to remodel and provide additional capacity at Catcote Academy, as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**.
- c) Approve the use of the remaining Universal Free School Meals capital, as detailed in confidential **APPENDIX A**.

These items contain exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

- d) Allow the Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee, dispensation and discretion to authorise works where an emergency (eg risk of school closure) or a significant health and safety risk is exposed.
- e) Note the update in respect of Priority Schools Build Programme – Phase 2.

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 There are no background papers.

19. CONTACT OFFICER

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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

17 March 2020



Report of: Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM – UPDATE REPORT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide an interim update to Children's Services Committee on the work of the pilot Community Support Team as requested by Committee on 19 November 2019.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Support Team (CST) moved into Community Hub Central on 25th November 2019 and for the first two weeks the team were coming together as a team undertaking training and familiarisation sessions linked to systems as well as child protection related training for those that had not primarily worked with children previously.
- 3.2 From the 9th December 2019 the CST went 'live' and began to pick up cases for intervention. Initially the social workers in the team picked up several families from the Safeguarding, Assessment and Support teams Bevan House due to the volume of demand being managed by these teams. All of these families resided in the Victoria Ward area of the town and one social worker brought several cases with her to continue working, all but one of these resides in the Victoria Ward area.
- 3.3 The CST became involved in supporting the Community Development and Re-Integration Team with 'Filling the Holiday Gap' initiative providing food and toiletries to families in need over the Christmas holidays and seeking donations from companies. Through collaboration with the team and with Hartlepool Food Bank we organized for food parcels to be made up for

families in need active to children's social care. 34 families (88 children) across Hartlepool were provided with food as a result of this initiative.

- 3.4 In addition donations were received from Joseph Rowntree Foundation who provided toiletries and books and baby items and new baby starter kits some of which we donated to the Baby Bank. Advent calendars were also donated by a local company and distributed as well as restaurant and shop vouchers.
- 3.5 Members of the CST have walked around Victoria Ward and spoken to some local businesses to raise awareness of the team and to ask about issues and concerns in the area. The Team Manager presented the role and function of the CST at the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) stakeholder event on 3rd December 2019 and spoke with VCS organisations to begin making links with key partners who could support the work of the team.
- 3.6 Since the team returned following the Christmas break there has been an increase in referrals and requests for service. Social worker caseloads have been steadily increasing with a combination of child in need, child protection and court work. All requests for social work intervention have come via the Children's Hub or via Team Managers at Bevan House where referrals for a family living in Victoria Ward have gone to the Duty Team Manager. All cases referred have adult issues relating to substance misuse, domestic abuse and associated concerns in relation to child neglect. There has also been instance where adults have been referred to the Adult Social Worker for advice as during the course of the assessment it was apparent the parents had unaddressed health needs.
- 3.7 The domestic abuse worker and substance misuse worker have begun to pick up work from the social workers in CST and social workers from Bevan House where domestic abuse and substance misuse is identified as a concern and the family reside in the Victoria Ward area. The substance misuse worker continues to spend one day a week at the Substance Misuse Service offering appointments and assessments there as well as at Community Hub Central. The Family Support Worker (FSW) has provided intensive support to families and as the worker is in the same team the support was able to be offered immediately with no delay associated with requesting services from other teams or partners.
- 3.8 Service promotion, a coffee morning and school playground stand were delivered in January 2020 for the 'Being a Parent' programme offered as part of Empowering Parents Empowering Communities initiative. Unfortunately at this stage despite around 10 parents expressing an interest and intending on attending the programme only two parents attended the first day. The team are now working with Health Visitors to secure parental buy in to deliver this important parenting programme.
- 3.9 The Team Manager has met with the Family Time Coordinator, Community Connectors, Neighbourhood Police Inspector, Hartlepower, and Hartlepool United Community Sport Foundation to identify opportunities to work collaboratively. Plans are also in place to meet with the new police officers

who will be working in the Victoria ward area and the Police Community Support Officers know to call in to speak to members of the team to develop good working relationships.

- 3.10 Following the February half term arrangements were put in place for the Family Support Worker (FSW) to hold two drop in sessions a week at Lynnfield Primary School which is in the centre of the Victoria Ward area. This is a chance for parents to speak to someone about any issues or concerns they may have. These could relate to budgeting; money issues; housing; help with white goods; relationships; meal planning; parenting; addiction, and any health needs. This provides an opportunity for the worker to get to know the parents in the community and hear about the issues that concern them and for parents to learn about the team and how it can support them, see a familiar face and help spread the word about what help they can receive. The FSW will be able to signpost parents to other services to support families and it is hoped that once the drop ins are established that other partners will be able to attend to offer advice and guidance on specific issues.
- 3.11 The domestic abuse worker has planned a training session to safeguarding leads within the school in relation to domestic abuse and how to engage parents and children, talk to them about what may be happening at home and how to respond to disclosures. There will be half termly group supervision sessions offered to the safeguarding leads by the domestic abuse worker to talk through any worries or concerns, to offer reassurance and to provide advice and guidance to boost confidence and skills in dealing with issues relating to domestic abuse and parental conflict. Lynnfield School has also been offered the opportunity for group supervision from the team using the Signs of Safety (SOS) Model of mapping in respect of any children they may have concerns about but do not meet threshold for intervention from statutory services.
- 3.12 A draft briefing note for agencies and a service user feedback form have been devised along with the development of a 'what we would want' suggestions postcard to give to families. These will be developed and finalized over the next few weeks.
- 3.13 In May 2020 there will be a VICT-Fest taking place for residents of the Victoria Ward area. This is being led by the VCS and will include lots of information on services and support available for residents, free food and games and is an opportunity to engage with the community in a positive way. Promotion of the event will commence soon and the CST are part of the ongoing planning and development of this project. In addition the team are liaising with the Family Time Coordinator and Community Hubs Outreach & Engagement Coordinator in respect of another event to take place in the summer holidays which will see several streets closed and games and activities delivered for children and families.
- 3.14 CST Implementation Meetings are held monthly to review progress and identify areas of concern that may need addressing to move forward.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 As with any new project there needs to be time for the team to form and learn how to work together in a different way whilst still ensuring that the needs of individuals are met. What we have seen so far is a quicker response for those families who need an assessment and intervention from a partner agency. Where it has been identified that there are concerns relating to domestic abuse, substance misuse or the carer has a perceived unmet health need we have been able to discuss with the parent that there is a colleague in the same team who can offer support and if parents are agreeable ensure that this is put in within one to two days. Historically this would have taken much longer with the need to make a referral to a partner agency, await allocation and response by which time a parent's motivation may have waned and they are sometimes reluctant to engage with another agency when engaging already with social care.
- 4.2 The CST are seeing better 'buy in' from parents who have engaged well with other members of the team. What has also worked well is the fact the team are all based together in a community location not identified as being a social care building or substance misuse building. Parents have felt more comfortable being able to walk into a community hub to talk to a worker than perhaps coming into the known 'social care' building.
- 4.3 The community development aspect of the team is still work in progress however it is hoped that within the next 4-6 weeks this can be developed with partner agencies. The team will be considering how best to engage the most hard to reach families in the community and materials will be developed to give to families and partner agencies highlighting the support the team can offer as well as a pull up banner that has been produced.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This pilot team is being delivered using ringfenced one off funding to test a proof of concept approach to a new model of service delivery. It is important that the approach is evaluated whilst in this pilot stage otherwise the investment will not yield the desired results. If successful, this will inform and influence the future service delivery model for supporting vulnerable families going forward.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 No consultation is required at this stage, report for information only.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 9.1 It is hoped that the pilot CST will have a positive impact upon child and family poverty and this will be evaluated as part of the pilot evaluation.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations, the CST works with all identified vulnerable children and their families regardless of any protected characteristics.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no staff considerations arising from this report.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations arising from this report.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Members of Children's Services Committee are asked to consider and note the contents of this report.

14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 14.1 Children's Services Committee is responsible for the oversight and implementation of this pilot initiative and should be kept up to date of progress and developments.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

17 March 2020



Report of: Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: OUTCOME OF EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT
DISAPPLICATION REQUEST 2020/21

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 This report is for information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee members of the outcome of the local authority's recent application to the Secretary of State for Education to disapply the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) regulations concerning charges for former Education Services Grant services for the financial year 2020/21.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In November 2019, Children's Services Committee took the decision to submit a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education. This request was made in order to enable the local authority to discharge some of its statutory duties in relation to various Acts of Parliament, and subsequent statutory guidance. The request was to set the Education Services General Duties rate at £60 per pupil/place for 2020/21 financial year. Details may be found in the relevant Committee report.

3.2 The local authority submitted the disapplication request ahead of the 30 November 2019 deadline.

3.3 Following approval by Committee, the local authority also submitted a disapplication request to transfer £0.550m from the schools block to the high needs block. The outcome of this request was reported to Committee on 28 January 2020. Members will recall that the Secretary of State rejected the request, although a reduced transfer within the 0.5% allowable in the regulations was suggested. Schools' Forum subsequently agreed to a reduced transfer of £0.329m at their meeting of 5 February 2020.

4. OUTCOMES

- 4.1 On 10 January 2020, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) contacted the Council to confirm that the Secretary of State had approved the disapplication request to set the Education Services General Duties rate at £60 per pupil/place for 2020/21 financial year. This is the fourth successive year that this particular request has been approved.
- 4.2 The outcome has been shared at the Schools Forum meeting of 5 February 2020.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Approval of the disapplication requests ensures that DSG funds of £0.4m continue to contribute to the cost of statutory services provided to schools.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications in this information report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation was required for the production of this report.

8. CHILD AND POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no child and poverty considerations in the contents of this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There no equality and diversity considerations in the contents of this report.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staff considerations in the content of this report.

11. BACKGROUND REPORTS

- 11.1 Relevant Children's Services Committee reports are:
 - a) Education Services Grant 2020/21, 19 November 2019.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Members are recommended to
- a) note the contents of this report
 - b) note that schools were informed formally of these outcomes at the Schools' Forum meeting on 5 February 2020 for the purposes of school budget setting for 2020/21 financial year.

13. CONTACT OFFICER

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