

Report of: Acting Chief Officer for Early Years and Youth Services

To: Executive Board

Date: 6th June, 2007

Subject:	Design & Cost Report
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Scheme Title New Wortley Children's Centre
Capital Scheme Number 13386

<p>Electoral Wards Affected: Armley</p>
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<p>Specific Implications For:</p>
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Equality & Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Community Cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to request Executive Board to:

Give authority to incur expenditure on the construction of an extension to the existing Castleton Primary School to create New Wortley Children's Centre.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to request Executive Board to transfer £935.0k from the Phase 2 Children's Centre Parent Scheme 12394 and give authority to incur expenditure on construction £768.0k, equipment £40.0k and fees £127.0k.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Childcare Act 2006 places the statutory responsibility on local authorities to develop and designate a Children's Centre in every community by March 2010 in three phases:

- Phase 1 of the Children's Centre Programme opened 23 centres in the wards of greatest disadvantage across the city.
- Phase 2 of the programme will develop 26 centres in the Super Output Areas (SOA) in the lowest 30% across the city by March 2008
- Phase 3 will develop a further 20 centres to ensure there is one in every neighbourhood.

- 2.2 The Children's Centres have become a part of the universal offer in the Welfare State through the Childcare Act. They will provide integrated early education and childcare, family support services, including parenting, health and social care, access to information points around services for parents, children and young people, and job and training opportunities.
- 2.3 A Design and Cost Report was approved by Executive Board on 16th November 2005, which injected a fully funded £7308.5k into the Learning and Leisure Capital Programme. The injection of a further fully funded £2974.4k into the Learning and Leisure Capital Programme was approved as part of the Capital Programme 2006/07 mid-year update.
- 2.4 New Wortley is a phase two children's centre.

3.0 Main Issues

Design Proposals / Scheme Description

- 3.1 The New Wortley Children's Centre hub site is proposed to be situated on the site of Castleton Primary School. An area of the site has been identified which will allow the centre to be accessed from both the school itself and roadside. Being at the heart of the community links are easily made to the Health Centre, Community Centre and parade of shops. The Centre itself will be a traditional free standing build of 370 square metres with pitched roof to blend in with the other local buildings. Security has been considered at length and provision has been made to install shutters as adopted by the school.
- 3.2 In an area which has very little provision for children, the centre will provide 57 child-care places including babies. The school nursery class will relocate from the school build into the centre and will offer more flexibility for parents. This space within school will then provide a classroom base for the children housed in a 'not fit for purpose' portable unit on the school grounds.
- 3.3 Due to its central location it is intended to utilise community space within the schools and other linked sites such as the community centre enabling the children's centre core offer to be delivered across a wide reach.
- 3.4 The build will include a welcoming reception area and office space, pram storage, staffroom, disabled toilets and kitchenette, 3 play areas for childcare and associated children's bathrooms and change areas, a full service kitchen to provide healthy meals, laundry facilities with sluice and storage and a small interviewing/counselling room.
- 3.4 The Children's Centre will benefit from a 'Magic Garden' which will provide an outdoor learning environment, rich in sensory experiences for the children.

Consultations

- 3.5 All childcare providers from the maintained, voluntary and private sector including schools, Head Teachers, Governing Bodies in the New Wortley area are invited to attend the Area Childcare Planning Forum and Consultation Network meetings. The Forum also includes Sure Start Local Programmes, Area Management Teams, colleagues from the Early Years Service and Ward members. The school has been consulted fully throughout the design process and has approved the final design.

Programme

- 3.6 The project strategic programme is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ● Tender out | ● 16th May, 2007 |
| ● Tender in | ● 27 th June, 2007 |
| ● Start on Site | ● 20th August, 2007 |
| ● Practical Completion | ● 14th March, 2007 |

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

Compliance with Council Policies

- 4.1 The proposed expenditure on Integrated Children's Centres in disadvantaged areas is in line with Corporate Plan service priorities to counter social exclusion by removing barriers to employment and opportunity.

Community Safety

- 4.2 The proposals contained in the report do have implications under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely:
- 4.3 A range of family support services, including counselling for domestic violence and drug dependency, and parenting groups will be offered by the Children's Centre. Community ownership will be encouraged, reducing the incidence of vandalism and other related crime. Over time this may impact on the fear of crime in the neighbourhood.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 Capital Funding and Cash Flow

Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	5116.6		681.7	4434.9			
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	5116.6	0.0	681.7	4434.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	768.0			768.0			
FURN & EQPT (5)	40.0			40.0			
DESIGN FEES (6)	127.0			127.0			
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	935.0	0.0	0.0	935.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2006 £000's	FORECAST				
			2006/07 £000's	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's	2010 on £000's
Children's Centre Grant	10282.9		681.7	9601.2			
Total Funding	10282.9	0.0	681.7	9601.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Balance / Shortfall =	4231.3	0.0	0.0	4231.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Parent Scheme Number : 12394
Title : New Children's Centre Strategy 2006-08

Revenue Effects

- 5.2 The Children's Centre programme became part of the welfare state as a result of the Childcare Act 2006. All children's centres must:
- Integrate services
 - be excellent
 - facilitate family support services
 - provide outreach capacity
 - provide leadership

- guarantee support to vulnerable children

- 5.3 These elements make the difference between a single service children's centre setting and the aspiration of an integrated children's centre. It is expected that funding sufficient to discharge these 'additional' services will be delivered through government revenue grant funding to the local authority. In 2006/08 the government allocated £7.4 million revenue grant through the General Sure Start Grant. The DfES has signalled this may change in the future but has not indicated how at this stage.
- 5.4 In New Wortley Children's Centre the school will take responsibility to deliver the core offer of the children's centre either through the Community Facilities Powers of the Childcare Act 2002 or via a sub group of the Governing Body . Services will be developed and run on a financially sustainable model with external grant funding the gap between income and expenditure, providing total funding sufficient to deliver the core offer.
- 5.5 The additional funding is likely to be paid as a children's centre premium to provide:
- A management allowance
 - A quality premium
 - A family work allowance
 - A vulnerable child allowance
- 5.6 The allocation for these premium for 2008/11 are still subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review for that period which will be announced, hopefully, in July 2007. All funding will be dependant on terms and conditions being met and the performance of the core offer being of the highest standard.
- 5.7 The following table illustrates the possible revenue effects based upon the 2006/ 08 Allocations and is provided as an indicative allocation without weighting for size or disadvantage..

REVENUE EFFECTS	2007/08 £000's	SUBSEQUENT YEARS £000'S
EMPLOYEES		5.0
PREMISES COSTS		10.0
SUPPLIES & SERVICES		25.0
CC REVENUE GRANT		-40.0

Risk Assessments

- 5.8 The Children's Centre must be designated by 31st March, 2008, or Children's Centre Capital Grant funding will be lost. The current programme of works shows that this is achievable. At this stage there are no known issues relating to design, site conditions, planning and refurbishment.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board are requested to:
- transfer £935.0k from the Phase 2 Children's Centre Parent Scheme 12394 and give authority to incur expenditure on construction £768.0k, equipment £40.0k and fees £127.0k.