

Report of the Early Start Children’s Centre Lead

To the Head of Strategic Development and Investment

Date: 22nd April 2014

Subject: Design & Cost Report – Achieving 2 Year Old Project – Minor Capital Works



Capital Scheme Number: 16778/REF/000

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Yes	x No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to incur capital expenditure of £175,000 on minor capital building works and equipment at a number of Children’s Centres across the city.
2. Leeds City Council has a duty to secure early education for specified two-year olds and the Government anticipates that around 4,300 two-year olds in Leeds will be eligible to take up a place by January 2015. A review and remodelling of existing provision in all areas of the city is required in order create the required 4,300 places, most significantly in the areas of greatest need.
3. This project is being delivered by Children’s Services in partnership with Corporate Property Management. The works will be undertaken by the Internal Service Provider, Property Maintenance.

Recommendations

The Head of Strategic Development and Investment, is requested to:

1. Authorise expenditure of £175,000 from Capital Scheme Number 16778/REF/000 on minor capital building works and equipment at a number of Children’s Centres across the city.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Seek authority to incur capital expenditure of £175,000 on minor capital building works and equipment at a number of Children's Centres across the city.

2.0 Background information

2.1 Leeds City Council has provided around 600 15-hour free early education places for two-year olds since 2006 as part of an early pilot programme. From September 2013, Leeds City Council has a duty to secure early education for specified two-year olds and the Government anticipates that around 4,300 two-year olds in Leeds will be eligible to take up a place by January 2015.

2.2 To create the required 4,300 places for two-year olds by January 2015 requires a remodelling of existing provision in all areas of the city, but most significantly in the areas of greatest need. Whilst there is an expectation that places can be expanded in 29 Leeds City Council sites offering early education, there will also need to be an expansion of capacity within the private and voluntary sectors.

2.3 In July 2013, Executive Board agreed to inject £1.4m from the Early Years block of DSG into a 'Start-Up' programme to incentivise all early providers of education to open up new places for two-year olds in the required areas of the city. In October 2013, CSLT approved the proposal to pay a 'Start-up grant' of £1,000 for every new 15-hour place created in a group provider setting and £500 for every new place created in a child-minder setting.

2.4 The DfE has allocated £1.58m of capital funding to Leeds, and although this is a non-ring fenced grant, it is intended to support the delivery of additional places for eligible two-year olds. This fund is intended to supplement the start-up grant where capital works are required.

2.5 Early Start commissioned Corporate Property Management to co-ordinate the minor capital building works programme and the Internal Service Provider, Property Maintenance, will carry out the work

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Design Proposals and Full Scheme Description

3.2 Work has been carried out and equipment purchased at the following Children's Centres

- Richmond Hill CC - £7,600
 - Remodelling of toilet block plus purchase of equipment
- Hawsworth Wood CC - £5,200
 - New internal and external doors, alterations to toilets
- Burley CC - £10,000
 - Alterations to toilets, new flooring plus purchase of equipment

- Middleton CC - £38,800
 - Remodelling of existing areas including removal of walls/partitions, segregation of areas by low level coloured barriers, decorating, flooring, electrics, replacement of redundant biddle air units with new energy efficient units. Works to header tanks to give more water pressure.
- Little London CC - £4,300
 - Remodelling of existing areas by removing walls; electrical work, handrail alterations
- Hunslet CC - £7,700
 - Remodelling of existing areas by removing walls, new flooring plus equipment
- Chapeltown CC - £1,500
 - Purchase of Equipment
- Swarcliffe CC - £19,100
 - New doors, existing walls removed alterations to plumbing, fencing, flooring, decorating, new stud walls and gates. Purchase of additional equipment.
- Gipton South - £19,600
 - New Toilets, drainage alterations, new kitchen units, flooring.
- Two Willows - £12,100
 - New toilets/changing areas. New external play surfaces. New flooring and decoration. Purchase of equipment.
- Osmondthorpe - £10,000
 - Remodelling of existing areas by removing walls/partitions, new flooring and decoration. Purchase of equipment
- Chapeltown - £11,000
 - New toilets, bathrooms, changing areas. Purchase of equipment
- Cottingley - £10,000
 - Remodelling of existing areas by removing walls/partitions, new flooring and decoration. Purchase of equipment
- Harehills - £18,100
 - Remodelling of existing areas by removing walls, new toilets/changing area. Purchase of equipment

4.0 Programme

- 4.1 Additional / new two-year old places need to be provided from September 2014. However, there are no constraints that would prevent works being undertaken, completed and the facilities made available for occupation by the Children's Centres before September.

4.2 As stated at 2.5, the works will be undertaken by the Internal Service Provider, Property Maintenance / Civic Enterprise Limited.

5.0 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

5.1.1 Elected Members have been kept informed on progress of all these schemes and Members are supportive of the increase in 2 year old places. Families have been included in the planning of the work in each Centre

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

5.2.1 The recommendation within this report does not have any direct nor specific impact on any of the groups falling under equality legislation and the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

5.3 Council policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 The introduction of free entitlement for eligible two-year olds is part of the Government's 'Fairness Premium' to drive up social mobility and improve life chances by supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds through high quality early years education and childcare.

5.3.2 This scheme is being delivered under the City Council's Achieving Two-Year Olds programme and is required to fulfil the Local Authority's statutory responsibility to provide sufficient places for eligible two-year olds by January 2015.

5.3.3 With regard to the CYP plan and city priorities, creating places for eligible two-year olds positively impacts directly on the priority around school readiness and on supporting families to provide a safe and supportive family life.

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 The estimated cost of the minor works and the purchase of equipment is £175k

5.4.2 The cost will be met through capital scheme number 16778/REF/000 as part of the Achieving Two Year Olds Programme.

5.4.3 Capital Funding & Cash Flow

Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2013 £000's	FORECAST				
			2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	0.0						
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2013 £000's	FORECAST				
			2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	150.7		113.7	37.0			
FURN & EQPT (5)	24.3		12.2	12.1			
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
TOTALS	175.0	0.0	125.9	49.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2013 £000's	FORECAST				
			2013/14 £000's	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017 on £000's
Early Learning for 2-Yr Olds Grant	0.0						
	175.0		125.9	49.1			
	0.0						
Total Funding	175.0		125.9	49.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Balance / Shortfall =	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Parent scheme number: 16778/REF/000

Title: Early Learning for Two-Year Olds

Capital scheme costs will be fully financed from the City Council's Early Learning for Two-Year Olds capital grant allocation.

5.5 Revenue Effects

- 5.5.1 Under local management arrangements, the individual Children's Centres are responsible for meeting any revenue costs. Any additional revenue costs arising from this project will be managed within each Children's Centre budget.

5.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call- In

- 5.6.1 The recommendations of this report will be classified as a 'Significant Operation Decision' and will not be subject to call in.
- 5.6.2 The decision maker's authority to take the decision is outlined in the City Council Constitution, within the Officer Delegation Scheme Executive Function – General Delegations to Officers paragraph 2a.

5.7 Risk Management

- 5.7.1 It is not anticipated there is any risk with this scheme.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 As a result of the requirement for Leeds City Council to provide up to 4,300 15-hour free early education places for eligible two-year olds across the city, there is a

requirement to review and remodel existing provision in all areas of the city, most significantly in the areas of greatest need.

6.2 The project to carry out minor building works has been managed by Children's Services in partnership with Corporate Property Management and other key stakeholders. The cost of the minor works plus purchase of equipment will be met through capital scheme 16778/REF/000 to the value of £175k.

6.3 It is proposed that the works are undertaken through the Internal Service Provider.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Head of Strategic Development and Investment, is requested to:

7.1.1 Authorise expenditure of £175k from Capital Scheme Number 16778/REF/000 to carry out minor capital works plus purchase equipment across a number of Children's Centres.

8.0 Background documents¹

8.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.