

**Report of the Early Start Children’s Centre Lead**

**To the Deputy Director of Children’s Services**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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



**Capital Scheme Number: 16778/MIN/000**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 £444,800 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 4,500 two-year olds in Leeds will be eligible to take up a place by October 2015. A review and remodelling of existing provision in all areas of the city has been required to create the required 4,500 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 are being undertaken by the Internal Service Provider, Property Maintenance.

**Recommendations**

The Deputy Director of Children’s Services is requested to:

1. Authorise expenditure of £444,800 from Capital Scheme Number 16778/MIN/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 £444,800 on minor capital building works and equipment at a number of Children's Centres across the city.

## **2.0 Background information**

2.1 Historically, 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 4,500 two-year olds in Leeds will be eligible to take up a place by October 2015.

2.2 To create the required 4,500 places for two-year olds by October 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 has also needed 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 also allocated £1.58m of capital funding to Leeds. Although this is a non-ring fenced grant, it is intended to support the delivery of additional places for eligible two-year olds. Some of this fund has been used to supplement the start-up grant where capital works have been required at Early Help Children's Centres and the rest has already been earmarked towards additional two year old provision in future basic need schemes at various Primary schools in Leeds.

2.5 Early Start Commissioned Corporate Property Management are co-ordinating the minor capital building works programme and the Internal Service Provider, Property Maintenance, are completing the necessary 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 - £9,500
  - Remodelling of toilet block, heating and purchase of equipment.
- Hawksworth Wood CC - £32,300
  - Remodelling of space previously used by Park Lane College, new alarm system, fencing works and purchase of equipment.

- Kentmere CC - £32,400
  - Internal remodelling, heating works plus purchase of equipment.
  -
- Garforth Firthfields EYC - £4,000
  - Purchase of equipment.
- Osmondthorpe CC - £57,400
  - Remodelling of former Day Centre for the Elderly space, new door entry system plus purchase of equipment.
- New Beverley CC - £26,000
  - Internal remodelling and also associated enabling works at Osmondthorpe One Stop shop required to create space for the New Beverley scheme.
- Quarry Mount CC - £36,400
  - Internal remodelling plus purchase of equipment.
- Harehills CC - £45,400
  - Internal remodelling, creation of new storage facilities, fencing works, and purchase of additional equipment.
- Bramley CC - £34,600
  - Internal remodelling plus purchase of equipment.
- Rothwell CC - £3,500
  - New flooring plus purchase of equipment.
- Chapeltown CC - £10,200
  - New toilets, bathrooms, changing areas plus purchase of equipment.
- Swarcliffe CC - £3,500
  - New playground fencing plus purchase of equipment.
- Two Willows CC - £23,700
  - Internal remodelling of Cottingley site plus purchase of equipment.
- Armley CC - £4,800
  - Purchase of equipment
- Shakespeare CC - £1,600
  - Internal works plus purchase of equipment
- Gipton CC - £90,000
  - Internal remodelling of Gipton North and Gipton South and refurbishment of the Henry Barran site. Removal of gas pipes and extractor hoods and purchase of equipment.
- All above CC sites- £29,500
  - Decoration of multiple CC's – by Bagnall's and LCC property Maintenance.

#### 4.0 Programme

4.1 Additional / new two-year old places need to be provided by October 2015. 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 October.

4.2 As stated at 2.5, the works are being 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 October 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 £444,800.

5.4.2 The cost will be met through capital scheme number 16778/MIN/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 2014 £000's	FORECAST				
			2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018 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						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2014 £000's	FORECAST				
			2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	396.7		396.7				
FURN & EQPT (5)	48.1		48.1				
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>444.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>444.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2014 £000's	FORECAST				
			2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018 on £000's
	0.0						
LCC Resources	444.8		444.8				
	0.0						
Total Funding	444.8		444.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Balance / Shortfall =</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Parent scheme number:** 16778/000/000

**Title:** Early Learning for Two-Year Olds

Capital scheme costs will be fully financed from departmental borrowing.

## 5.5 Revenue Effects

5.5.1 The following table illustrates the alterations which will be necessary to the department's revenue budget,

REVENUE EFFECTS	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 and SUBSEQUENT YEARS £000'S
STAFFING		
PREMISES COSTS		
SUPPLIES & SERVICES		
DEBT CHARGES	75.5	75.5

## 5.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call- In

5.6.1 The recommendations of this report will be classified as a 'key Decision' and will 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/MIN/000 to the value of £444,800.

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

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Deputy Director of Children's Services is requested to:

7.1.1 Authorise expenditure of £444,800 from Capital Scheme Number 16778/MIN/000 to carry out minor capital works plus purchase of equipment across a number of Children's Centres.

## **8.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

8.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.