

**Report of the Complex Needs Area Lead – Health**

**Report to: Head of Learning Systems**

**Date: 09<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Subject: Design & Cost Report: Schools Access Works, Thorpe, Summerfield and Strawberry Fields**



**Capital Scheme Number: 32569 / APP / 000**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Various	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 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. Access to education and provision of services is covered by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended under the Equality Act 2010. Local authorities and schools have a duty to plan to improve the accessibility of schools to disabled pupils over time. They are required to produce accessibility strategies for all of the maintained schools they are responsible for, and individual schools are required to produce their own school accessibility plans.
2. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to carry out access improvement works at three Leeds schools at an estimated total cost of £107,244.38

**Recommendations**

The Head of Learning Systems is requested to:

- a. Give approval to carry out access improvement works at three Leeds schools, and
- b. Give approval to incur £107,244.38 of expenditure from capital scheme number 32569/APP/000 within the approved Capital Programme.



## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to carry out access improvement works at three Leeds schools at estimated total cost of £ 107,244.38 and
- 1.2 To seek approval to incur capital expenditure estimated in the sum of £107,244.38

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The former DCSF previously provided Schools Access Initiative (SAI) funding to local authorities specifically for the purpose of improving access to mainstream schools for disabled pupils. This funding was subsequently injected into the capital programme, and allocated to access improvement works to schools across the city. As part of the newly installed government's review of capital funding for schools, Schools Access Initiative funding ceased after 2010/11; however, in acknowledgement of the authority's ongoing responsibility to provide accessible school buildings, the Children's Programme Risk & Control Group set aside £150k for future years to deliver a programme of access improvements. Any funding that remains unallocated by the end of each financial year is being returned to the capital programme, in particular to assist in the delivery of basic need provision across the city.
- 2.2 All requests for funding support from schools or from within the service is evaluated by the Children's Services Access Working Group. In considering the how funding is allocated to individual projects, the criteria for funding support remain the same as in previous years, and funding must be used to improve access to mainstream education for children with disabilities. The type of works to be undertaken include, but are not restricted to, the provision of access ramps, stair lifts, lifts and disabled parking bays, the creation of care suites and changing facilities, plus the purchase and installation of specialist equipment (including audio-visual, and acoustic) to assist pupils to access the curriculum.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Design Proposals and Full Scheme Description.**

- 3.1.1 Schools are required to make their premises accessible, as part of their duty within the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended under the Equality Act 2010. Local authorities and schools have a duty to plan to improve the accessibility of schools to disabled pupils over time. Local authorities are required to produce an accessibility strategy outlining how it intends to meet the needs of disabled pupils for all of the maintained schools they are responsible for, and individual schools are required to produce their own school accessibility plans. The strategies and plans need to cover improving access to the physical environment of schools, increasing access to the curriculum and improving the delivery of information. The available funds are being used for capital improvements to:
  - *Community Resourced Schools* (provision of facilities for pupils with special needs at every resourced school, and also to develop new provision within the city)
  - *General Access* (improvements to general access to mainstream schools).

3.1.2 The Children’s Services Access Working Group has previously agreed the following projects to be supported from the capital funding allocation:

School	Description of Proposed Works	£ 000's
Thorpe Primary school	2 additional teaching Space for 9 children named on applicat	£84,600
Summerfield Primary	Improvements to ramp and doorways	£10,353
		£0.00
Strawberry Fields Primary	Additional teaching space 11 Children	12,291.00
		#####

3.1.3 The individual schemes will be managed by the schools themselves.

3.1.4 The consultation process to identify further access works to be carried out in Leeds schools is continually in progress. Where necessary, a further report arising from Access Working Group recommendations will be submitted in due course to request approval to proceed with additional schemes to utilise funding available in 2017/18.

### 3.2 Programme –

The proposed strategic programme for delivery of works is as follows:

Start on Site: commencing 2017  
 Practical Completion: Autumn 2017

## 4 Corporate Considerations

### 4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 All proposed works have been the subject of consultations with city council officers, and the schools concerned. The scheme proposals have been approved by the Children’s Services Access Working Group.

### 4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 A screening document has been prepared and it has been determined that an independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested. The screening document has been submitted for publication.

### 4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 All proposed works are being procured in accordance with LCC Contract Procedure Rules.

#### 4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The design and construction of these works is estimated in the sum of £107,244.38. All works will be procured and managed by the individual school. Any costs that occur in excess of the approved allocations will be financed from school resources.

#### 4.4.2 Capital Funding and Cash Flow.

Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2018 £000's	FORECAST				
			2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	107.2		107.2				
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
DESIGN FEES (6)	0.0						
OTHER COSTS (7)	0.0						
	107.2	0.0	107.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2018 £000's	FORECAST				
			2017/18 £000's	2018/19 £000's	2019/20 £000's	2020/21 £000's	2021 on £000's
Basic Need (58)	107.2		107.2				
Total Funding	107.2	0.0	107.2		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: 32569/000/000**

**Title: School Access Funds – Basic Need Schemes**

Scheme costs will be financed from Departmental Supported Borrowing.

#### Revenue Effects:

Any additional revenue costs that may arise from these scheme proposals will be managed within the relevant school budgets.

#### 4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The recommendations of this report are classified as an Executive Decision (Significant Operational) and will not be subject to call in.

4.6 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.

#### 4.7 Risk Management

4.7.1 Operational risk will be addressed by effective use of CDM regulations where necessary, and close supervision of contractors on site.

## **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 The proposed works described in section three above are required to improve access to the school curriculum for pupils with disabilities. All scheme proposals have been carefully considered and approved by the Children and Families Access Working Group. The proposed works will greatly assist and improve the learning experience for this specific sector of the school population.

## **5 Recommendations**

5.1 The Head of Learning Systems is requested to:

- a) Give approval to carry out access improvement works at three Leeds schools;
- b) Give authority to incur expenditure of £107,244.38 of expenditure from capital scheme number 32569/APP/000.

## **6 Background Documents**

6.1 None<sup>1</sup>.

---

<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.