

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**1 August 2017**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services**

**CAPITAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE INCREASE IN PROVISION OF  
FREE ENTITLEMENT TO EARLY YEARS PLACES**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to allocate funding to the conversion of children’s centre properties to create additional early years places.

**2. Information and Analysis**

On 22 November 2016, Cabinet approved the sum of £250,000 for minor alterations to children’s centre buildings to meet Ofsted requirements for the delivery of early years places. The Cabinet Member report of 14 March 2017 approved works at three of the centres, to the value of £54,699. The following schemes have now been identified at four more centres:

**Stonebroom Children’s Centre** was created within Stonebroom Primary and Nursery School using accommodation released by the school. Following the closure of the Children’s Centre, the school will take the facilities back into their use for the delivery of early years. This project is to install two new infant toilets within the former activity space. This will enable the school to create up to 36 new early years places, dependant on the age profile of the children. The budget for the work is £10,484 including fees of £750. This includes an allowance for redecoration, given that it is 10 years since the Children’s Centre project was completed.

**Ripley Nursery School** – the school has already taken over the activity room in the adjoining children’s centre. This project is to provide minor improvements to that room to make it suitable for the care of 9 babies rather than the current 8. The project will also provide an additional toilet within the main body of the nursery. This will allow the number of 3-4

year olds in the provision at any one time to increase from 80 to 90. The the budget for these works is £5,420 including fees of £750. As this scheme is under £10,000 it does not count as a capital scheme.

**Arkwright Children's Centre** was created in a stand-alone building on the site of Arkwright Primary School. This project is to install two additional infant toilets in the children's centre accommodation. The building will then be suitable for use by the school nursery, creating up to 30 new places for 3 and 4 year olds. Given that it has been 7 years since the Children's Centre project was completed an allowance is also made for redecoration and minor repairs. The budget for the project is £13,872.

**Harpur Hill Children's Centre** was included in the previous report of 14 March 2107. Additional works have been identified, requiring funding of the project of £8,745 including fees of £750. The operation of this children's centre building is subject of a separate consultation. These works, however, are required for the children's centre building to operate as an early years setting and are not dependent on which organization delivers the service.

- Provision of a path to ensure that adequate safeguarding measures are in place for users of the two separate operations in the building.
- Provision of Belfast play sink in the playroom.
- Provision of additional wash hand basin in the new toilet area.
- Redecoration.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

On 22 November 2016, Cabinet approved a budget of £250,000 from the £2,563,134 of revenue funding approved by the Secretary of State to support Capital projects. As the Ripley Nursery scheme of £5,420 is not a Capital project but is still to be funded from the revenue contribution this reduces the amount total available for Capital projects to £244,580. A spend of £54,699 was agreed on 14 March 2017 and the three proposed Capital projects contained in this paper require a total commitment of £33,101. This would leave a balance of £156,780, which will be available for future reports.

### **4. Legal Considerations**

The Childcare Act 2006 and subsequent strategic guidance, requires local authorities to ensure there are sufficient funded Early Years Places to meet the requirement of working parents of three and four year-olds in their area. In addition, this duty has been amended to include funding places for disadvantaged two year-olds.

**5. Social Value Considerations**

The schemes will deliver affordable childcare for working parents.

**6. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

**7. Key Decision     No**

**8. Call In**

Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in the report? No

**9. Background Papers**

These are held on file in the Children's Services Development Section and County Property Division files

**10. Officer Recommendation**

- 9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the following allocations for the projects at the former children's centres at Stonebroom (£10,484), Arkwright (£13,872), Harpur Hill (£8,745) and Ripley (£5,420)

**Jane Parfremment  
Strategic Director for Children's Services**