

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES

14 March 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 following schemes have been identified:

Clowne Children’s Centre is a stand-alone building on the site of Clowne Infant and Junior schools. The project is to install two new infant toilets and relocate the secure door in the corridor and that will enable the school to create up to 20 new early years places. The cost is £20,180.

Howitt Primary School nursery includes a room that was converted for use by the Heanor Children’s Centre. The project is to install two infant toilets which will enable the school to create up to 13 new early years places. The cost is £10,500.

Harpur Hill Children’s Centre is a stand-alone building on the site of Harpur Hill Primary School. The building is shared by the children’s centre and a private provider offering term time early years provision. The project is to install three infant toilets in the children’s centre accommodation and provide separate entrances to allow a private provider to relocate and release the existing early years room. The early

years room would then be occupied by the school nursery, creating 26 new places. The cost is £24,019.

3. Financial Considerations

Derbyshire's capital allocation for the creation of places for two year-olds is £1,036,886. In addition, following support from Schools Forum, the Secretary of State for Education has approved that revenue funding of £2,563,134 from 2014-15 Dedicated Schools Grant can be used to support capital projects, giving a total capital budget of £3,600,020.

On 22 November 2016, Cabinet approved a budget of £250,000 from the overall allocation to be made available for the conversion of children's centre buildings. The proposed projects amount to £54,699. The balance of £195,301 will be the subject of 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 allocation of £54,699 for the projects at Clowne Children's Centre, Howitt Primary School and Harpur Hill Children's Centre.

Jane Parfrement
Strategic Director for Children's Services