

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

7 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

PROJECT AT THE WILLIAM ALLITT SCHOOL FOR A NEW HEATING SYSTEM

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to allocate funds to a project at The William Allitt School.

2. Information and Analysis

The William Allitt School was the subject of a bid from the Authority to the Priority School Building Programme PSBP in 2014. The PSBP is a Department for Education programme to replace the schools in the worst condition. This bid was not successful. Officers have been in discussion with colleagues in the DfE to seek a long-term solution for the problems faced by this school because of its poor facilities.

The Authority retains the responsibility to keep this school in operation. The main buildings at the school are of the Vic Hallam type. In recent weeks a heating leak has occurred. This cannot be traced as the heating pipes run through the floor slab. Investigations to identify the leak or improve the situation have established that the heating distribution pipework along with the heat emitters need to be replaced.

The school is currently without its principal heating source. Supplementary electrical heaters cannot be used throughout all of the school because there is insufficient capacity within the electrical system to do this. As a consequence, some classrooms are operating with local gas-fired heaters, but these are problematic because of the ventilation requirements. The overall situation is disruptive to the school.

A scheme to replace the heating distribution system has been estimated to cost up to £164,000. This can be routed externally around the building to minimise disruption to the school. If an approval can be given in February, the full scheme could be implemented by June. However, a decision now would enable some initial works to take place over the half term period (which is the week commencing the 13th February 2017) which would enable some of the school to be brought back onto the main heating system after half term. This would reduce the impact on the school of the temporary heating and reduce / eliminate the reliance on temporary gas heating.

3. Financial Consideration

In January 2016, Cabinet approved an allocation of £1.7m for a School Capital Improvement Programme. This funding was set aside for 'schemes that may require funding during the year'. No allocations have been made to date against this programme, but a report is due to be considered by Cabinet on 21 February which, if approved, would allocate £410,000 from this fund. This would leave £1.29 m in the fund. If the proposed heating project at William Allitt were also approved, the amount available in the programme would reduce to £1,126,000

4. Social Value Considerations

It is proposed that these works will be delivered by County Property and will not, therefore, be subject to an external procurement. This approach to project delivery has taken into account the Authority's Social Value Strategy. The choice of County Property to deliver these projects reflects the potential for social value including contributions to Outcome 1 (strong local economy) and Outcome 2 (a skilled and confident workforce). Particular benefits in these areas relate to: workforce development through apprenticeships, payment of the living wage and spend with suppliers within the local economy. The social value created by this and other projects delivered by County Property will be reported separately, to Cabinet.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Prevention of Crime & Disorder, Equality of

Opportunity, Health, Legal & Human Rights, Human Resources, Environmental, Property and Transport Considerations.

6. **Key Decision** No.

7. **Call-in** Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in this report?

No.

8. **Strategic Director's Recommendations**

That an allocation of £164,000 be approved from the School Capital Improvement Programme for a scheme to provide new heating distribution at The William Allitt School.

Jane Parfremment, Strategic Director for Children's Services