

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

9 February 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-16 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to budget adjustments to three schemes in the 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme.

2. Information and Analysis

The 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme was approved by Cabinet on 24 March 2015. It contained schemes to provide new kitchens at Ashover and Blackwell Primary Schools. On the 10 February 2015, Cabinet approved a scheme to provide a two-classroom block at Findern Primary School to replace an existing building with a budget of £310,000. Planning of these schemes has now advanced and the contracts are ready to be agreed.

The development of the schemes has resulted in a significant saving on the Blackwell scheme as the budget allowed for a more complex solution than the one that was finally agreed which has resulted in savings. On the other hand, the costs at Findern and Ashover are higher than the budgets allocated. The table below sets out the proposed budget changes.

Project	allocation	total allocation	allocation date	Final projected costs
Blackwell Kitchen	£430,000		2015/16	
	£120,000	£550,000	2014/15	£262,321
Findern replacement classrooms	£310,000	£310,000	2014/15	£362,010
Ashover replacement	£120,000		2015/16	

kitchen				
	£150,000	£270,000	2014/15	£311,797
total	£1,130,000			£936,128

These changes result in a saving of £193,872 to the Children's Services Capital Programme 2015/16.

Somercotes Infant School has an allocation of £140,000 in the 2015/16 Capital Programme for re-roofing works to a building known as the 'barrel building'. Further survey work as part of this project has indicated that this building is now beyond economic repair and needs to be replaced. In addition, the building has recently suffered from significant flooding and is no longer usable. Investment to bring this life-expired building back into use for a short period would be poor value for money. The school can manage the current pupil numbers on an interim basis provided that additional toilets are provided to replace those lost in the barrel building. A project to achieve this has an estimated cost of £45,000. It is proposed to fund these works from the previous allocation of £140,000 resulting in an additional £95,000 returning to the Children's Services 2015/16 Capital Programme. A longer-term plan to replace the barrel building is now required.

3. Financial Considerations

A paper to Cabinet on 13 October 2015 identified that the 2015/16 and 2016/17 basic need allocation which had been previously announced by the Department for Education was being managed as a single programme and that there was a balance of £1,794,558 to allocate in 2016/17. The savings outlined above total £288,872 and therefore increase the unallocated amount to £2,083,430.

4. Other Considerations

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

5. Key Decision No

6. Call In

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

7. Background Papers

These are held on file in the Children's Services Development Section

8. Officer Recommendation

That approval be given to change the project budgets of the schemes named in this report as follows: Blackwell kitchen, £262,321(reduced from £550,000); Findern replacement classrooms, £362,010 (increased from £310,000); Ashover replacement kitchen, £311,797 (increased from £270,000).

That approval be given to a project to provide replacement toilets at Somercotes Infant School at a total cost of £45,000, to be funded from a previous allocation of £140,000 which is no longer required.

Ian Johnson
Strategic Director for Children's Services