

Agenda Item No: 7 (I)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

26 October 2017

**Joint Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services
and the Director of Property**

**Granville Academy – Approval for Fire Escape Staircase Funding
(Young People)**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve a further allocation of funding for fire escape staircase works at Granville Academy.

2. Information and Analysis

On the 3 April 2017, the DfE announced the School Condition Allocations for 2017-18 which included £9,363,639 for the Authority to allocate to projects in the schools for which it is responsible for capital funding. Cabinet approved allocations in the Children's Services 2017-18 Capital Programme of £8,196,000 on 20 July 2017 leaving £1,167,639 available for further allocations.

An allocation of £48,000 was made in 2017/18 from the Insurance Maintenance Programme IMP for fire escape staircase works at Granville Community School. (Since this allocation was made, the school has taken on Academy status) This has proved insufficient as a number of additional costs have been encountered, particularly in relation to the complexity of the foundation design. Under the current building regulations, the fire escape could be enclosed or open. If the open solution had been adopted, the full façade of the building would have had to be replaced with a fire rated alternative. This would have caused major disruption to the school as it would have affected all the rooms on that side of the building. The enclosed option involved more complex foundations but was the preferred solution given the consequential costs and disruption of the alternative. The full cost of the scheme, including fees, is now £170,000. This cost is based on an external tender for the works. The scheme was advertised on Source Derbyshire and three tenders were received. The school is facing rising pupil numbers and this project will increase their flexibility in using their

accommodation. This project remains the Authority's responsibility to complete, even though the school has become Granville Academy.

3. Financial Considerations

The Insurance Maintenance Programme is provided for schemes up to £100,000. Above that amount, schemes become eligible for consideration in the annual capital programme that is funded from the School Condition Allocations referred to above. The additional funding required by this scheme is £122,000. If this allocation is approved, the amount of unallocated funds available in 2017/18 will reduce from £1,167,639 to £1,045,639.

4. Social Value Considerations

This project has been tendered externally by County Property under the Council's financial regulations. The social value of the project improves school facilities and, as it is located at a prominent location on site, it is a clear statement of intent that Derbyshire is investing in the future of young people. The principle aim of the project is to improve fire safety within the school but it also has a secondary purpose of allowing increased pupil numbers on the first floor.

5. Other Considerations

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

6. Key Decision

No

7. Call In

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

8. Background Papers

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

9. Chief Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet approves an allocation of £122,000 to complete fire escape staircase works at Granville Academy from the Children's Services 2017-18 School Condition Allocation.

Jane Parfremment, Strategic Director for Children's Services
David Massingham, Director of Property