

**Agenda Item No: 6 (j)****DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****6 June 2019****Report of the Executive Director for Children's Services****CHILDREN'S SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018-19 –  
URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES****1. Purpose of Report**

To note an urgent decision taken by the (then-named) Strategic Director for Children's Services to approve a further allocation from the Children's Services Capital Programme 2018-19 for urgent repair work at Norbury Primary School.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The Decision was taken by the Strategic Director for Children's Services on 27 March 2019.

At the end of November 2018, due to high winds, there was damage to the gable end on the main school building at Norbury Primary School and, as a result, the school closed. When the building was inspected by structural engineers to establish the extent of the damage, it was identified that all the gable ends required structural attention. In the period up to Christmas, the school operated from the neighbouring village hall and at the beginning of the January term, a rented temporary classroom was in place on the village hall site to assist with the smooth running of the school. The Authority's insurer has agreed to fund the repair of the gable end that was subject to wind damage and the provision of the temporary accommodation, however it will not cover the structural work required to other gable ends.

The cost of the work is £221K. Although some of that cost will be borne by the Authority's insurer, the exact sum is still in negotiation but it is likely to be approximately 30%. It was estimated that the work would take 14 weeks and the contractor was available to start on site on 8 April 2019. If the Authority had missed that programme date, the contractor would have been unable to confirm when the work would have otherwise taken place. Although the school is managing to function in its temporary

accommodation, it is impacting on availability of the village hall for the local community and maintaining the temporary classroom is attracting further rental charges. The use of temporary facilities is affecting education as they don't have access to all their normal resources and facilities, and there is need to restore the main building as soon as possible hence the request for an urgent decision. Work has now started on site and is due to be completed by 24 August 2019 ready for the School returning in September.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

On 26 July 2018, Cabinet approved the allocation of school condition – capital maintenance funding towards identified schemes. It also approved the sum of £1M for contingency capital maintenance. This was to be used for the Children's Services 50% contribution towards Insurance Maintenance Scheme projects of between £20K - £40K for primary schools and £50K - £100K for secondary schools. On 21 March 2019, Cabinet approved a programme of such schemes amounting to £506K, leaving an unallocated balance of £494K. The cost of the scheme at Norbury Primary is £221K and leaves an unallocated balance of £273K. Funds received from insurance will be refunded to this balance.

### **4. Social Value Considerations**

This allocation will support the provision of high-quality education in a rural school.

### **5. Legal Considerations**

The Council's Constitution provides that "notwithstanding any other provision of the Constitution Strategic Directors shall have the power, after discussion, if practicable, with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair, to take such actions deemed to be necessary and expedient in matters requiring urgent consideration and which, because of the timescale involved, or the need to safeguard the interests of the County Council, cannot be dealt with by submission to the next following meeting of the Council, Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committee."

### **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, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

## **7. Officer Recommendation**

That Cabinet notes the urgent decision taken on 27 March by the (then-named) Strategic Director for Children's Services for the approval of £221k for the urgent repair work at Norbury Primary School.

**Jane Parfrement**  
**Executive Director for Children's Services**