

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

22 January 2013

Report of the Director of Finance

**RISK MANAGEMENT SECURITY PROJECTS – HEANOR LANGLEY
INFANT SCHOOL
(FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT)**

1 Purpose of the Report

To seek the approval of Cabinet to a proposed risk management project at Heanor Langley Infant School.

2 Information and Analysis

Background Information

Derbyshire County Council has provided funding assistance for risk management schemes in schools (including Secondary Schools) since at least 1995.

The purpose of these fencing schemes is to:

- Protect the safety of the pupils, visitors and employees
- Protect assets from
 - Vandalism Damage
 - Arson
 - Theft - particularly of IT equipment

Funding support is only recommended when it is established by the Risk and Insurance Manager and Property Risk Manager that there is a need for the project based upon:

1. Request by the establishment including detail of any problems experienced which are not insurance-claim related.
2. Review of the annual Risk Assessment Questionnaires. These focus on the existing physical security, layout of the site eg concealed courtyards, flat roofs etc, locality crime and housekeeping at an establishment along with a rating of the level of incidents experienced. Each question is scored and a total ranking determined for each establishment. Generally scores

over 100 in relation to Primary and Infant Schools would signify the higher risks and warrant consideration of support. However, as questionnaires are self-populated by establishments a certain amount of subjectivity exists so validation of the Property Risk Manager is required.

3. Experience of any existing on-going problems or any anticipated problems.
4. The location of the establishment.
5. Site visit by the Property Risk Manager to verify the contents of the annual Risk Assessment and validate the necessity and anticipated benefit.

The Risk

This report relates to a project proposed at Heanor Langley Infant School and Nursery, Lacefields Road, Heanor.

This school has increasingly become the subject of vandalism including; stripping of roof lead, destruction of outdoor furniture, evening/weekend anti-social behaviour and theft of equipment from PE stores. The school has also suffered an arson attack in 2010 which, luckily, did not result in extensive damage.

There is also a concern regarding safeguarding as visitors can currently access the school via the playground and, in addition, earlier this term a young pupil was able to leave the playground undetected.

Proposed Solution

The risk of vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour could be reduced to the lowest exposure by installing security fencing at the front of the school.

To address some of the safeguarding concerns the school applied and obtained funding for a disability access ramp which resulted in an upgrade to security to enable visitors to access the main entrance without contact with pupils. The proposed fencing scheme will include an internal fence 1.2 metres high with lockable pedestrian gates which will run along the building up to the new accessible ramp and create a walkway for visitors to the school.

The remainder of the fencing scheme is proposed to comprise of a green 2.4 metre high Betafence Securifor 3d fence along the front of the site to replace the existing low timber fence to the playground. The fence will go over the top of the existing gate and then be taken over the low brick wall. To the side of the site the timber fence will be replaced with 2.4 metre high Betafence Securifor 3d fencing, also in green, with a new gate to replace the current low timber gate.

The fencing will be green powder coated to match existing fencing at the school. The proposed fencing has excellent through vision and will feel less imposing than a solid fence. Some of the existing timber fencing will remain with the new fencing being taken over it.

A site plan showing the area for action is included in the appendix to this report.

Alternatives

The school have engaged the police who have increased patrols and changed their route to include the school more frequently. They have also provided a presence on a number of occasions when parents have been arriving and leaving. However, the problem still remains as police presence cannot be maintained constantly.

As the problem of vandalism and theft is a result of unchecked access onto the site, the only other solution is the creation of a physical barrier preventing intrusion.

The fencing solution is considered to be the best solution by the Property Risk Manager and the relevant County Property Division surveyor who have visited the site. The solution is supported by the School and its' governors.

Security Risk Assessment

This school has a high score on the Risk Management security ranking which would usually prompt a priority Risk Management response. The implementation of this security project is anticipated to bring the score to an acceptable level.

Safeguarding

The proposed solution will help the school manage safeguarding issues that might be considered by Ofsted.

3 Financial Considerations

The cost of providing the outlined solution is quoted as £10,700.

The project is proposed to be financed 75% from the Risk Management Capital Budget and 25% directly by the school (who intend to utilise Devolved Formula Capital money).

4 Legal Considerations

The County Council has a duty of care to provide a safe environment for staff, pupils and visitors.

5 Human Resources and Health Considerations

Completing these projects will show the Council's continued commitment to safeguarding and personal safety, in protecting staff, pupils, service users and visitors. It will help to protect the Council's assets from vandalism, theft and arson, which can be costly and cause significant disruption to services.

6 Other Considerations

In preparing this report the schemes have been discussed with the heads of the establishments, and, where appropriate, the County Property Division Area Surveyors and/or CAYA Area Health and Safety Officers to ensure that the works planned are the most appropriate to address the problems at the individual sites.

The relevance of the other following factors have been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, property and transport considerations.

7 Key Decision

No

8 Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

9 Background Papers

Held in the Risk and Insurance Section.

10 OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves funding of 75% of the project cost from the Risk Management Capital Budget. The balance would be met by the School.

PETER HANDFORD
Director of Finance

10 December 2012

