

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

31 January 2012

**Joint Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults
and the Director of Property**

**ADDITIONAL BASIC NEED FUNDING FOR 2011/12 – SHARLEY PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PEAK SCHOOL – (Education)**

1. **Purpose of Report** To inform Cabinet of an additional Basic Need capital grant from the Government for 2011/12 and to seek approval to capital allocations to extend Sharley Park Primary School in Clay Cross and to undertake a remodelling project at Peak School.
2. **Information and Analysis**
 - 2.1. In July 2011 the Government announced additional funding totalling £500m for local authorities to address Basic Need requirements in response to rising pupil numbers. In November 2011 allocations to individual authorities were confirmed. The grant funding has been directed at authorities with the greatest need and the allocation for Derbyshire is £977,184; this is therefore an addition to the 2011/12 CAYA Capital Programme.
 - 2.2. Derbyshire is not experiencing the Basic Need pressures to provide additional school places facing some other local authorities, but primary sector pupil numbers are beginning to rise again generally, reflecting an upturn in the Reception age intake. In many schools this growth can be accommodated as primary numbers have fallen in recent years. However, there are a small number of schools where new housing has created a need to consider providing additional accommodation. In particular, Sharley Park Primary School in Clay Cross is forecast to have a significant increase in its number on roll and is therefore regarded as a priority to benefit from this additional funding. A further urgent priority is the need to cater for additional pupils at Peak School in Chinley. Providing more places at this special school reduces the pressure to fund out-county placements. The details of these projects are outlined below. Other potential 'Basic Need' priorities will be considered when the 2012/13 CAYA Capital Programme is determined.

2.3. Clay Cross, Sharley Park Primary School

This relatively new school was approved in the 2004/06 Capital Programme as a replacement for Clay Cross Infant, Clay Cross Junior and Danesmoor Infant Schools. It was built with a net capacity for 350 pupils and following various delays relating to the siting of the new school and planning issues it opened in April 2009 with approximately 300 on roll. It was designed to facilitate a two classroom extension at a future stage as it was acknowledged that pupil numbers would grow in view of the large areas of new housing in the town. The number on roll is now 354 and this is projected to rise to 397 by 2016. It is therefore proposed to build a two classroom extension with additional toilets. The budget cost for this project is £650,000.

2.4 Chinley, Peak School

In the 2008/10 Capital Programme a budget of £4.4m was approved to replace the residential accommodation at Peak School with a new Children's Home and respite care facility, and to convert the existing residential accommodation into teaching accommodation. This was a Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) project partly funded via grant funding of £1.975m from the DfE. Phase 1 of this project, the new residential accommodation, was completed recently. Phase 2 of the project is to remodel the existing residential block to address a shortage of teaching and therapy accommodation. A sum of £260,000 remains available from the allocation of £4.4m.

2.5 Design work on the Phase 2 remodelling works has progressed whilst the new building works have been taking place. The scope and detail of these works was not known when the initial budget was approved. At the time that the TCF project was costed, the number of pupils attending Peak School was 40. This number remained constant until 2010/11 when it rose to 50 during the course of the school year. Some of these placements were made as a result of the anticipated new facilities at the new residential home and sought to avoid out of County placements. Further discussions between Governors, the Head Teacher and the Head of Special Needs Service led to an agreement that the school would have a maximum number of pupils of 56 which would equate to 8 pupils per year group. From September 2012, the school roll will be 55; an increase of 15 pupils within 18 months.

2.6 To accommodate the initial increase in pupil numbers, and lacking the accommodation within the existing school, the School has been using the dining space of the original residential block as a class base but without appropriate toilet, storage, and other

teaching facilities. Thus, when the new build element of the project was nearing completion a review of the refurbishment element of the project was undertaken. As a result of this increase in pupil numbers the required remodelling works are more extensive and complex than originally envisaged, but the increase in the capital cost is counterbalanced by future revenue savings via a reduction in potential out-county placements.

- 2.7** The remodelling works will create three large teaching spaces with appropriate specialist therapy, toilet and changing, and full disabled access facilities. Staff support spaces also need to be incorporated. The budget cost for the Phase 2 remodelling works is £660,000, leaving a shortfall in funding of £400,000.

- 3. Financial Considerations** The funding required for the projects at Sharley Park Primary School and Peak School totals £1,050,000. This can be met mainly from the additional £977,000 Basic Need grant funding confirmed by the DfE as outlined in Section 2 above. The remaining balance of £73,000 can be met from savings in the 2010/11 Capital Programme (Basic Need) which currently total £84,000.

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

- 5. Key Decision** Yes

- 6. Call in to be waived?** No

- 7. Chief Officers' Recommendations**

- 7.1** That Cabinet notes the additional £977,000 grant funding received from the DfE to supplement the 2011/12 CAYA Capital Programme.
- 7.2** That approval be granted to an allocation of £650,000 to provide a two classroom extension with toilets at Sharley Park Primary School.
- 7.3** That approval be granted to an additional allocation of £400,000 to convert the former residential block at Peak School into teaching accommodation.
- 7.4** That the additional grant funding of £977,000 be supplemented by an allocation of £84,000 from savings in the 2010/11 Capital Programme (Basic Need).

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