

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

14 September 2011

Subject: Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) Capital Grant 2011-12

Cabinet Member: Councillor Lionel Grundy, Children's Services

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary

It has recently been confirmed that there is a capital grant (under AHDC) to Wiltshire Council for £248,487.

This report proposes a Capital Programme for 2011-12 to benefit disabled young people and their families.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee approve the Capital Programme as detailed in this report.

Reasons for Proposal

The proposal seeks to match the funding available through the AHDC Capital Grant 2010-11 to projects which will meet the commissioners priorities for short breaks for disabled children and young people in Wiltshire.

The grant is being received by Wiltshire Council via the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee who has responsibility for allocating the money within Wiltshire Council.

Julia Cramp

Service Director, Commissioning and Performance

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

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Cabinet Member: Councillor Lionel Grundy, Children's Services

Key Decision: No

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the proposal for the AHDC Capital Programme for 2011-12

Background

2. Wiltshire Council shall receive a capital grant (under AHDC) of £248,487. Unlike last year, the grant is not ring-fenced which means Wiltshire Council is not limited to spending the grant on disabled children. The Cabinet Capital Assets Committee has responsibility for allocating the money within Wiltshire Council.

Grant Conditions and Expectations

3. The following information has been provided by the Stephen Newing of the Grants Management Team (responsible for issuing the grant).

"The Government expects that local authorities will continue to support a wide range of services for children, young people and families including short breaks for disabled children. The Department recognises that in the case of short breaks for disabled children the continuation of the programme may include the provision of equipment, building adaptations and/or new facilities, and that there is a cost associated with the creation of such assets. Accordingly we have made available this additional capital funding.

The only terms and conditions attached to the grant are those set out in the determination, which are that the funding is used in support of lawful, capital expenditure. By capital we mean the creation of an asset (singular or grouped) over £2,500.

We do not require any claims or audited statements of expenditure, and will not be making any recoveries at year end. In effect this means that there is not a time limit on spend. The Department may request some details of how the funding has been committed to inform future policy and decision making.

Some further details may be found at

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075231/short-breaks>”

Priorities

4. Supporting short breaks for disabled children and young people including children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD), in particular through links with Special Schools
5. Responding to suggestions from consultation with parents, carers, children and young people, in particular through development of the facilities at Resource Centres.

Proposal - AHDC Capital Programme 2011-12

6. Enhancement of Resource Centres

Following consultation with Wiltshire Parent Carers Council it is proposed that £54,000 be allocated to enhance facilities at the Resource Centres in Trowbridge, Devizes and Salisbury. (approximately £18,000 at each Centre). These developments will provide the following benefits to disabled children:

- increase accessibility to the Resource Centres for the most disabled children
- create opportunities for social evenings
- extend independent living skills
- stimulating and calming experience, particularly for the most disabled children through the development of a sensory garden

For further details on this proposal please refer to Appendix A.

7. Specialist Equipment at St Nicholas Special School

St Nicholas Special School has requested £28,000 to purchase specialist equipment to support disabled children attending their school. Provision of this equipment will support disabled children accessing short breaks opportunities including extended school activities.

All equipment is approved by our Occupational Therapist team. For a detailed breakdown of the proposed purchases see Appendix B.

8. Sensory Garden, Play Equipment and 'Safe Spaces' at Exeter House Special School

Exeter House Special School has requested £70,000 to purchase a sensory garden, outdoor play equipment and to create 'safe spaces'. These will enhance the short breaks opportunities for disabled children and young people at Exeter House including extended school activities. For further information see Appendix C.

9. Ceiling Hoists for Larkrise Special School

Larkrise Special School has requested £30,000 to purchase ceiling hoists. These will enable inclusion of disabled children and young people in short break activities.

Larkrise Special School have also requested £10,000 to purchase an outdoor canopy to enable therapeutic outdoor activities for disabled children and young people in their Therapeutic Learning Group. For further information see Appendix D.

10. Rowdeforde Special School

Rowdeford Special School has requested £24,600 to provide trampoline equipment for Rebound Therapy and for items to improve accessibility, inclusion, communication and interaction for disabled children and young people.

For a breakdown of planned expenditure see Appendix E.

11. Hi Tech Specialist Equipment

A need has been identified for specialist hi-tech equipment for disabled children and young people across schools in Wiltshire, at a cost of £31,850. The items required have been identified to meet the needs of specific children and are summarised in Appendix F.

Risk Assessment

12. Each project within the AHDC Capital Programme 2010-11 will be appointed a responsible officer as the Delivery Lead who will ensure risk assessments are completed in accordance with Wiltshire Council policy.
13. The Delivery Leads will implement appropriate monitoring protocols to ensure successful delivery of the projects they are responsible for.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

14. Each project will have its own equalities impact assessed by the Delivery Lead.

Environmental Implications of the Proposal

15. Each project will have its own environmental implications assessed by the Delivery Lead, proportional to the size and nature of the project.

Financial Implications

16. The AHDC Grant is an un-ring-fenced grant so could be used on any capital scheme. The grant giving body has recommended it be spent on AHDC schemes. The new projects identified in this report would be in line with these recommendations.
17. The grant is being received in four equal instalments (31/05/2011, 31/08/2011, 30/11/2011 and 29/02/12).

Legal Implications

18. None have been identified as arising directly from this report, provided the AHDC Grant is used in accordance with any applicable Department for Education or other official guidance.

Julia Cramp
Service Director, Commissioning and Performance

Report author: Matthew Look, Senior Procurement and Contracts Officer

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None

Appendices attached.

Appendix A – Enhancement of Resource Centres

Rational for application for Capital Funding Bids:

To enhance the accessibility of the newly refurbished Children's Resource Centres with the aim of extending the use of the buildings to children and young people who have disabilities.

The following account relates specifically to the enhancement of Trowbridge Resource Centre on the basis that we have had opportunity to consult more fully with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council and Wiltshire Council Senior Occupational Therapists and Safety Consultants as the centre is up and running. However the opportunities to enhance the accessibility of the Devizes and Salisbury Resource Centres currently under development are equally relevant.

Trowbridge Resource Centre has been refurbished and reopened in March 2011.

The building has been redeveloped to include fully accessible front door access and all general rooms within the building.

The teaching kitchen includes low level sink and cooker access.

The building now includes a fully equipped personal care room which is referred to as a 'changing space'. This room includes full hoist toilet, shower and changing bed facilities, enabling children and young people with the most significant disabilities to be supported to use the toilet in the most comfortable and private manner whilst away from home.

Representatives from Wiltshire Parents and Carers Council have visited the building and we are in discussion with this service to consider ways forward to extend opportunities for children and young people to make use of the facilities on offer.

Ideas include:

Opportunities for young people who attend The Bridge youth service to have social evenings in TRC.

Opportunities for young people to extend their independent living skills such as cooking, self care and age-appropriate social opportunities.

Opportunities to extend independent living skills could extend to overnight stays.

WPCC representatives were most impressed with the potential that the garden space at TRC has to offer:

There is capacity for a permanent structure fully accessible ramp to the garden from one of the rooms in the building.

There is capacity for a permanent structure fully accessible entrance to the side of the garden from the reception facilities.

The garden space is a large flat space, secure and not overlooked.

There is potential to develop an area of sensory raised bed area in the site where a portacabin use to stand. The raised beds would enhance the experience of all users of the garden by being a source of visual stimulation through use of mirrors and mobiles, scented and textural planting and the inclusion of planting fruit and vegetables as part of healthy eating initiatives. The benefits of a sensory garden are it offers a focus of stimulation for developing children including children with sensory challenges. Children and parents who attend the resource centre for the purpose of contact or for assessment will benefit from the calming environment of a sensory space which will be encouraged for use as a time out space.

The garden would be enhanced by the inclusion of meandering paths allowing wheel chair users full access to the outdoor spaces. It is our idea to create paths using child-friendly compressed material, creating a safe surface for children to push walker toys, scooters and bikes.

The garden has sufficient space to include a private patio area in the far corner. Representatives from WPCCC have suggested that this would enable young people with significant disabilities to move independently out of earshot of adult carers and support workers and to have private social time and space that is a basic need for all young people.

The garden would also benefit from the inclusion of a hard wearing permanent play structure. The garden is used on a daily basis by families with several children. Key parenting skills such as encouraging independence whilst overseeing children's safety are assessed in the garden space.

With the enhanced access, paths and structures in place the garden at Trowbridge Resource Centre would open further ideas and opportunities for groups and individual young people who have disabilities to experience the comfort and benefits of this building to the fullest extent.

Funds required:

From estimations under taken by Wiltshire Council Buildings Surveyor Darren Tape and Jan Thatcher of the 'Transformation Programme Team' we have an indicative figure of £18k per Resource centre (x 3 centres = £54k in total) to allow us to provide the extra facilities as detailed in the above description of what we wish to provide for the young people and families within Wiltshire.

Appendix B – Specialist Equipment at St Nicholas Special School

<u>Essential hoists, slings and Maintenance</u>	£
Hoist maintenance contract 2011-12	1879.75
Additional maintenance for new equipment	657.14
Sling maintenance (28) @ £10/year	280.00
New overhead hoist for Elm Class	5,500.00
New overhead hoist for Therapy room	5,500.00
<u>New equipment to aid new and existing pupils as discussed with OT</u>	
2 Ball Chairs @ £75	150.00
2 pupil specific chairs for new pupils G&S Smirthwaite - £2500 each	5,000.00
2 work chairs @ £900 each	1,800.00
1 specialised classroom chair	600.00
2 pupil specific Foxdenton chairs @ £300 each	600.00
Toileting chair	500.00
2 Standing frames to allow children to interact	2,750.00
5 Shower/changing beds @ £2095	10,475.00
Total Equipment	35,691.89
Less our grant for pupil specific items	-7704.25
Request for AHDC Capital Funding	27,987.64

Appendix C – Outdoor Play Equipment and ‘Safe Spaces’ for Exeter House Special School

Proposed Project	Project Outcomes	Cost
<p>To provide a variety of outdoor play equipment</p>	<p>The school is in urgent need of more assessable play equipment for young people with disabilities. We would like to create a range of separately fenced play areas where students could have a variety of sensory needs met; these areas would include a sensory garden, an area where large musical instruments could be played, a chill-out zone and large swings/seesaws capable of taking wheelchairs</p>	<p>£60,000</p>
<p>To purchase 2 ‘Safe Spaces’</p>	<p>The ‘Safe Spaces’ will be used for students who may be at risk of harm in an ordinary classroom. They would be used to help care for those with challenging or destructive behaviour or those who self-harm; for example students with autism or other learning difficulties. The ‘Safe Spaces’ could also be used for those with conditions as epilepsy or cerebral palsy or indeed any students who need protection from a hard surface.</p>	<p>£10,000</p>

Appendix D – Capital Proposal for Larkrise School

Ceiling Hoists

Installing ceiling hoists will liberate the well being of both staff and students with regard to personal hygiene areas. Ceiling hoists are safe, functional and highly practical and serve to ease Manual Handling and Personal Hygiene procedures. They improve and maintain good practice with regard to Manual Handling responsibilities and protect both students and staff through good working practices. Ceiling hoists play a central part in de-cluttering low level high traffic areas and promote safer working areas within spaces where wheelchairs and specialist equipment is commonplace. This bid is an attempt at financially securing and updating facilities and equipment with regard to current student needs. It will provide solutions to future-proofing facilities and meeting the changing needs of students in the years to come. It meets the school's inclusive aspirations ensuring students with physical impairments can access the same environment as their peers.

The cost of the ceiling hoists is £30,000.

Therapeutic Learning Group (TLG) External Canopy

Larkrise TLG students need a covered outside space to extend their curriculum opportunities by having shade from the sun and shelter from light summer rain for example. The importance of being outside cannot be underestimated and access to an appropriate environment for students and staff is of paramount importance. The natural lighting, fresh air and different acoustic characteristics will have a calming effect and provide a safe, appropriate space for students who have profound and complex health and learning difficulties. The outside environment will offer the best opportunities for TLG students to develop social skills and experience activities not easily managed in the classroom. This will enable them to participate and access the curriculum in a more **Creative and Inclusive** way. It will also provide positive experiences during playtime where they can enjoy being with their neighbouring peer groups within the shelter of the canopy. TLG students have limited opportunities to participate in outside activities due to their specialist needs re: medical, personal hygiene, high staff to student ratios and transport requirements; we want to change this and we can if this bid were successful.

Water and sand activities would become more commonplace as the canopy would provide a permanent space to develop this type of curricular, sensory experience. The canopy would also benefit Holiday Clubs and secure a more **Inclusive** ethos for TLG holiday club children.

The cost of the external canopy is £10,000.

Appendix E – Capital Proposal for Rowdeford School

Trampoline equipment to provide Rebound Therapy at Rowdeford & elsewhere in Wiltshire	Cost
Eurotramp Master 77A trampoline	£3,200
Pair of end decks with wedged mat	£1,500
Push on mats 150x100x15	£150
Pair of lifting roller stands	£450
Set of replacement frame pads for 77A	£900
Inflatable wedges & supports	£150
Flat bed trailer to transport equipment to and from other schools	£2,500
Subtotal	£8,850

Items to improve accessibility & inclusion	Cost
Height adjustable woodworking bench	£900
PE equipment to support pupils with physical impairments including boccia and new age curling	£1,000
Height adjustable sink for food tech room	£1,350
Height adjustable cooker for food tech room	£3,500
Installation of cooker and sink	£500
Height adjustable tables x 5	£1,000
Supportive height adjustable stools for science room x 10	£1,500
Subtotal	£9,750

Items to improve communication & interaction	Cost
iPad computer to use as alternative communication aids in lower school x 10 (class set)	£5,000
Pen-type reading device for visually impaired pupils x 2	£1,000
Subtotal	£6,000

Grand Total £24,600

Appendix F – Capital Proposal for Hi Tech Specialist Equipment

School	Device	Cost
Exeter House	Dynovox V+	£4995
Exeter House	Dynovox V+	£4995
Exeter House	Dynovox M3	£1995
Exeter House	Dynovox M3	£1995
Wansdyke Primary	Dynovox M3	£1995
Pembroke Park Primary	Dynovox M3	£1995
Amesbury Archers	Prototalk	£2500
St Nicholas	Liberator SpringBoard Lite	£1795
St Nicholas	Liberator SpringBoard Lite	£1795
Westbury Leigh Primary	Liberator Springboard Lite	£1795
Rowdeford	Liberator Vanguard Plus	£5995
	Total	£31,850

Appendix G – Proposal Summary – AHDC Capital Programme 2011-12

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
Resource Centres	54,000
St Nicholas Special School	28,000
Exeter House Special School	70,000
Larkrise Special School	40,000
Rowdeford Special School	24,600
High Tech ACC	<u>31,850</u>
Total	248,450