

CABINET

Date: 12 May 2020

Approvals for school organisation capital projects

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services: Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Wayne Daley

Report prepared by Sue Aviston, Head of School Organisation and Resources.

Purpose of Report

Cabinet is asked to delegate approval for the award of several capital contracts in relation to school organisation capital projects.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Delegate the authority to award the contracts for capital works in relation to Haltwhistle Primary School and St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy previously approved by Cabinet to the Member for Children's Services and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services.
- 2) Approve the allocation of £411,656 'Special Provision Capital Grant Fund for pupils with EHC Plans' to purchase a modular classroom and associated works for Hillcrest Special School and delegate the authority to award the contract for the works to the Member for Children's Services and the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

Key Issues

1. Cabinet has previously approved capital investment for the following schools as part of the council's Medium Term Capital Programme. In order to carry out the works, approval is now being sought to delegate the authority to the Executive Director of Adults and Children Services and the member for Children's Services to award the contract for both projects in line with the previous approvals by Cabinet.

School	Scope	Capital Investment	Cabinet Approval
Haltwhistle Academy	Refurbishment of middle school building to create a new primary school	£2.65m	17th September 2020
St Benet Biscop Academy	Expand the school to create additional places, for September 2020	£2.5m	11th February 2020

2. In line with previous reports to the Cabinet, there is an urgent requirement to create Special Educational Needs places across the county. This report requests approval to draw down funding from the 'Special Provision Capital Fund for pupils with EHC Plans' to enable the purchase of a mobile classroom, and associated car park works, to facilitate the temporary provision of an additional eight (8) SEND places at Hillcrest School. Approval is also sought to delegate the authority to the Executive Director of Adults and Children Services and the member for Children's Services to approve the purchase of the mobile classroom, as appropriate, in line with the previous approvals by Cabinet. Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group.

Background Papers

The report of Executive Director of Adults and Children's Services and Cabinet member for Children's Services on the Outcome of the Outline Business Case for the Haltwhistle Primary School Provision for Wise Academy Trust 17th September 2020.

The report of: Neil Bradley, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning and Finance and Cabinet Member: Councillor Peter Jackson, Leader of the Council 11 February 2020.

Implications

Policy	These works form part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-2022. The plan supports the Corporate Plan
Finance and value for money	Funding approval has already been given by Cabinet for Haltwhistle Academy project and for St Benet Biscop project. The expansion project at Hillcrest Special would be 100% funded from the capital grant from central government to grow capacity for pupils with EHCPs.
Legal	There are no direct legal implications
Procurement	Following approval it is intended to procure the Hillcrest mobile unit via Direct Award on the LHC Modular Buildings framework, due to the requirement to deliver the project for September 2020. Procurement for the extension at St Benet Biscop and Haltwhistle has concluded with contract negotiations underway, with the preferred bidders.

Human Resources	No implications
Property	The proposed investment will improve the educational environment for children and young people in Northumberland.
Equalities Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	An equalities impact assessments have been carried out for these projects
Risk Assessment	A full risk assessment has been carried out on these projects.
Crime & Disorder	This report has considered Section 17 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
Customer Consideration	The proposals set out in this report are based upon a desire to act in the best educational interests of current and future children and young people in Northumberland
Carbon reduction	It is not envisaged that these proposals would have a significant positive or negative impact on carbon reduction
Health and Wellbeing	No implications
Wards	Haltwhistle; Bedlington West; Cramlington Village

Report sign off

Executive Director of Finance & Section S151 Officer	CH
Monitoring Officer/Legal	LH
Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services	CMc-C
Chief Executive	DL
Portfolio Holder	WD

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