

Report to:	STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL
Date:	22 June 2023
Executive Member:	Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)
Reporting Officer:	Tony Decrop – Assistant Director Children’s Services
Subject:	CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL SCHEMES OUTTURN REPORT
Report Summary:	This report provides an update on the Children’s Social Care Capital Scheme Outturn for 2022-23 and sets out details of the major approved capital schemes in this service area.
Recommendations:	That Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel be recommended to note the 2022-23 Capital Expenditure Outturn position and approve the budget slippage.
Corporate Plan:	The schemes set out in this report support the objectives of the Corporate Plan and enable the delivery of the Children’s 7-point plan.
Policy Implications:	In line with Policy and Financial Framework
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	<p>This report provides an update in relation to the schemes already approved and delivered through the Children’s Directorate, noting progress since the last update to Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP).</p> <p>The Council has limited resources available to fund Capital Expenditure and the current capital programme, which is based upon receiving capital receipts of £15.4m, is fully allocated to Council priorities. Careful monitoring of progress in realising these capital receipts must be undertaken throughout the year to ensure that there is timely and pro-active disposal of assets and that the actual receipts are in line with projections.</p> <p>The Council’s capital programme will be reviewed and updated during 2023/24 in order to ensure that all approved schemes are still required and to include those schemes that are fully funded from external sources.</p> <p>Any additional priority schemes that are put forward for consideration and that are not fully grant funded will need to be evaluated, costed and subject to separate Member approval. There will be a revenue cost for any new capital schemes that are not fully funded from alternative sources and the implications of this will need to be carefully considered, given the on-going pressures on the revenue budget.</p> <p>Slippage in the Boyd’s Walk scheme beyond 2024-25 could put the DFE grant funding of £1.6m at risk as it is time-limited which would place additional pressure on the capital programme. Any delays in the scheme will also result in more young people being placed in higher cost external placements rather than lower cost provision at Boyds Walk.</p>

**Legal Implications
(Authorised by Borough
Solicitor)**


This report provides Members with an update on the progress being made with on the capital schemes. No decisions are being sought in this report as each project is subject to its own due diligence, governance and decision-making.

Risk Management:

This is covered in the content of the report.

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tony Decrop, Assistant Director of Children's Services by:

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides details of the major approved capital schemes for Children's Social Care and an update on the progress and budget slippage on each project.

1.2 Full details of existing schemes are set out below:

Scheme Name	2022/23 Approved Budget Allocation £	2022/23 actual expenditure £	Outturn Slippage Re- Profiled in to 23/24 budget £	2023/24 Budget (Subject to Re- Profiling Approval) £	2024/25 Budget
Respite Unit	0	0	0	367,000	0
Boyds Walk	85,000	43,350	41,650	787,368	2,433,800
Unallocated Short Breaks	0	0	0	88,000	0
Total	85,000	43,350	41,650	1,242,368	2,433,800

2. PROGRESS UPDATE

Respite Unit

2.1 As reported to panel on the 16th March 2023, the purchase of a respite property did not conclude due to the report on title and the service conclusion that the property would not be fit for the purpose it is intended. The delivery of edge of care respite will now form part of the work Salford City Council are undertaking as Sector Led Improvement Partners, commissioned by the DFE, which will inform our future model and provision of in-house children's homes. The way forward on capital spend will also be influenced by the Governments response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (Stable Homes Built on Love), that includes proposals to establish regional commissioning care co-operatives (GM is already considering this proposal). Proposals for effective spend linked to building good quality, local Children's Home capacity will likely lead to spend of this budget in the second half of 2023-24.

Boyds Walk Replacement

2.2 Boyds Walk is a Children's Home for children with disabilities requiring long term and short-term care. The property from which the service operates is not fit for purpose. The property has significant health and safety, safeguarding and Children's Home Regulation deficiencies and Ofsted, Fire Service and Children's Services senior management are all of the same opinion that an urgent replacement is required. On 26th October 2022, Cabinet passed a resolution for a new build replacement for Boyds Walk on the former Flowery Field Infant School vacant site. A bid to the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme funding opportunity was successful (£1.6m).

2.3 The start of the project has been delayed due to the DFE requirement for formal consultation on the appropriation of land (former Infant School site). The progress of the project has slowed until a decision on the appropriation of the site is agreed, which is likely to be end of May 2023. The current indicative timeline for the project is attached to this report and the profile of spend is below:

Financial Year	Quarterly Spend Profile
2022-23	Q4 £43,350
2023-24	Q1 £104,549
	Q2 £123,389
	Q3 £72,969
	Q4 £486,461
2024-25	Q1 £972,886
	Q2 £1,237,708
	Q3 £223,206
TOTAL	£3,264,518

2.4 The DFE capital grant is required to be spent by 31 March 2025 and the project remains on track to be delivered within this timeframe.

Unallocated Short Breaks

2.5 The unallocated short breaks funding will be utilised to support adaptations needed to accommodate children with disabilities.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As set out at the front of the report.