

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	6 July 2020
<b>Executive Member / Reporting Officer:</b>	Councillor Bill Fairfoull – Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) Tracy Morris – Assistant Director Children’s Social Care
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE - PROPERTY CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	This report provides an update on the Children’s Social Care Property Capital Scheme and sets out details of the major approved property capital schemes in this Directorate.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Members note the following schemes have been approved by Executive Decision on 5 March 2020 and 29 April 2020, and will be added to the Council Capital Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. £400,000 for the purchase of new property to provide in borough residential assessment unit.</li> <li>ii. £ 45,250 for the modification of existing property to provide in borough residential respite unit.</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The schemes set out in this report supports the objectives of the Corporate Plan
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	In line with Policy
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	<p>An amount of £950,000 is earmarked in the Capital Programme to support capital investment in Children’s Social Care Services. Schemes approved to date are £400,000 for the purchase of a new property to provide a residential assessment unit, and £45,250 to support modifications to an existing property to provide a residential respite unit.</p> <p>These Capital Investment schemes form part of the Children’s Social Care Sustainability projects, designed to improve outcomes for Children whilst also supporting financial sustainability. Delivery of these schemes is therefore essential to support the sustainability of the revenue budget.</p> <p>The Council’s capital programme ambition is currently unsustainable. The current committed programme requires £18.8m of corporate resources, with only £14.6m available in reserves, leaving a £4.2m shortfall which needs to be met from the proceeds from the sale of surplus assets. Any cost pressures arising as a result of Covid-19 or other factors will increase the resources needed to deliver the approved programme, and the current shortfall of £4.2m may increase.</p> <p>The broader ambition of the Council points to a further requirement of £33.2m of corporate funding to pay for schemes identified as a priority and subject to future business cases. Clearly these will be unable to progress until additional capital receipts are generated. The Growth Directorate are reviewing the estate and developing a pipeline of surplus sites for disposal.</p>

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

This is a general update report for the Panel and therefore there are no immediate legal implications to be considered. Legal support will continue to be provided to the various projects and their individual governance.

**Risk Management:**

This is covered in the content of the report

**Access to Information:**

By contacting the report author.

**Background Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Alison Lloyd-Walsh



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Children's Social Care property capital projects, within the Capital Programme managed by the Directorate.

## **2. CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE 7 SUSTAINABILITY STRANDS**

- 2.1 At Executive Cabinet on 27 November 2019 a series of 7 projects to stabilise our LookedAfter Children (LAC) cohort were agreed. The purpose of these projects are to make our existing cohort of LAC financially sustainable for the local authority, improve outcomes for those children already in care and divert families away from the care system where it is safe and appropriate to do so. The 7 projects are as follows:

- Project 1: Develop a model of core, multi-disciplinary Early Help service in each neighbourhood/ locality
- Project 2: Develop a Family Intervention Service (FIS) across the continuum of need and enable the Family Group Conference services to intervene at an earlier point on the continuum.
- Project 3: Restructure the Duty and Locality Teams
- Project 4: Develop the Team Around the School (TAS) approach
- Project 5: Positive Futures model (Respite/Assessment Units)
- Project 6: Fostering Service Improvement
- Project 7: Placements Review & LAC Sufficiency

- 2.2 The current capital programme as recommended by SPCMP on 9 October 2017 and subsequently approved by Executive Cabinet on 18 October 2017, included funding support Capital Investment in Children's Social Care. The total Capital funding earmarked is £950,000.

## **3. PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 3.1 Approval was granted via an Executive Decision on 5 March 2020 to purchase accommodation to provide a residential assessment unit in the borough. A sum of £400,000 has been allocated to facilitate this purchase. A property has been identified and the sale is progressing based on legal requirements in regard to planning permissions. The £400,000 forms part of the original £950,000 capital allocation.
- 3.2 Approval was granted via an Executive Decision on the 29 April 2020 to support the modification of an existing building - St. Lawrence Road Denton – to provide a residential respite. As sum of £45,250 has been allocated to facilitate this refurbishment. Building work has started on the building with a completion date of 12 June 2020. The £45,250 forms part of the original £950,000 capital allocation.
- 3.3 First pass feasibility work is underway to modify an existing building that has identified as being potentially suitable to accommodate the Edge of Care and Family Intervention teams and facilitate the colocation and effective integration of activity. Appropriate governance will be sought once plans are complete and full costs are available.
- 3.4 Early stage discussions are also on-going to formulate the property requirements associated to other individual projects contained in the Children's sustainability plan. Progress will be reported at the appropriate time.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.