

Cabinet – 15 July 2009

Education Capital Programme – further schemes

Portfolio: Councillor R Walker, Children's Services
Councillor A Andrew, Regeneration

Service: Walsall Children's Services, Serco

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary of report

1.1 The report sets out schemes from the Education Asset Management Plan for approval. These projects will provide improved learning environments for Walsall pupils.

1.2 **Appendix A** of this report details schemes previously approved by Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approves the schemes and budgets set out in **Appendix B** of this report.

3. Background information

3.1 LEA Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) - Discussions have been held with diocesan authorities and representatives of other Voluntary Aided schools to agree a programme of schemes to be funded through the LEA Co-ordinated VA Programme in 2009/10 and 2010/11. As the DCSF has confirmed funding allocations for 2010/11, it is proposed to approve some schemes that span the two financial years. This will assist with programming and cash flow issues and will result in more flexibility across the programme.

3.1.1 Following an inspection by the West Midlands Fire Service, a number of significant issues have been identified at Blue Coat CE Junior School and the estimated cost of addressing these is £300,000. The poor state of the sports hall at Blue Coat CE Performing Arts College has been identified as a priority and funding of £100,000 has been identified to carry out various upgrading works including replacement floor coverings in 2009/10. It is planned to carry out re-roofing works to the main hall at Blue Coat CE Infant School in 2010/11, this is a complex project as the building is listed and the estimated cost of this work is £200,000.

- 3.1.2 A scheme is proposed to carry out urgent heating improvement works at Queen Mary's Grammar School at an estimated cost of £60,000.
- 3.1.3 A significant scheme is proposed at St Joseph's Catholic Primary to replace dilapidated mobile accommodation with two traditionally constructed classrooms at an estimated cost of £330,000 funded across the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. At St Mary's of the Mount Catholic Primary School, it is proposed to improve staff accommodation and provide new secure entrance arrangements; the estimated cost of this is £195,000 and it is proposed to fund this across the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. Urgent heating works at St Patrick's Catholic Primary and lighting improvements at St Peter's Catholic Primary, both at an estimated cost of £150,000 are also proposed. Work to carry out a full refurbishment and enhancement of the sixth form accommodation at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College is also proposed at an estimated cost of £330,000. An internal remodelling scheme to provide a food technology room at St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School at an estimated cost of £90,000 is also proposed.
- 3.2 In addition to the above schemes, work is continuing to upgrade schools to a minimum level of compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). Funding from the Schools Access Initiative budget in the sum of £350,000 has been identified in this report to support the continuation of DDA works to further increase the number of Walsall schools which meet the required minimum standard of physical accessibility
- 3.3 Aldridge School – A Science College is carrying out a project to continue the phased replacement of the curtain walling to the main teaching accommodation which will significantly upgrade classrooms and improve facilities for pupils. The overall cost of the scheme is estimated to be in the region of £115,000 and it is intended to contribute the sum of £47,713.82 from received Section 106 contributions towards this scheme to enhance the learning environments. The Section 106 funding is related to the education contributions received from the following developments: 12-14 Little Aston Road (£11,014.61), 57 Coppice Road (£4,421.59) and Four Seasons Public House (£32,277.62).
- 3.4 Early Years Capital - The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has allocated funding to local authorities to develop and improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings. The expectation is that the majority of the grant is to make improvements in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) settings, although spending on the maintained sector is not precluded.
- 3.4.1 In October 2008, Cabinet approved the phased approach to improve the quality of early years environments. The first phase is the bulk purchase of equipment in order to satisfy the grant definition for capital expenditure. The second phase is to improve early years environments in settings located in Council owned buildings. The benefit from the investment and corresponding asset remains in the ownership of the Council. The third and final phase will be to extend this to the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector by enabling them to access funding to improve the quality within more settings, requiring grant procedures to be established.

- 3.4.2 The Early Years Team drew on the expertise of professionals and practitioners to prepare a list of equipment and resources that would improve the learning environment across all settings (including schools) that are delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage in Walsall. The settings identified their equipment needs and a comprehensive list of resources has been produced. These will be set out in detail for the Interim Director for Children's Services and Portfolio Holder when tenders have been returned and the costs are known for each individual setting.
- 3.4.3 Working with the Council's Procurement Team, tenders have been produced to satisfy financial procedures. Subject to approval, contractors will be invited to tender for the play and learning equipment. The BECTA framework will be used to procure the ICT equipment.
- 3.4.4 The DCSF guidance defines capital expenditure and gives a current capitalisation threshold (currently £2,500, including VAT). The total expenditure on the bulk purchase of resources for Early Years settings, including schools, is £726,900. No individual school or setting would receive equipment exceeding £2,900 in value; for childminders this would be no more than £1,550.
- 3.5 As Cabinet will recall, a new school building for Barcroft Primary is currently in design. This will include a 26 FTE (full time equivalent) place nursery class and enable 52 children to attend on a part time basis. It is proposed to enhance the scheme by providing additional accommodation to support the future development of extended school services and which will be flexible enough to provide full daycare and community / parent facilities. To fit with the spend profile for the project, an allocation of £277,901 is detailed from the Extended Schools Capital in 2010/11.

4. Resource considerations

4.1 Financial:

- 4.1.1 As previously reported, Walsall has been advised of capital allocations for the three-year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11. Further schemes will be brought forward for consideration by Cabinet when details are finalised.
- 4.1.2 Schemes detailed in this report (other than schemes funded through either Early Years Capital or Children Centre maintenance capital) are funded in partnership with schools in order to maximise the number of schemes that can be taken forward. Such a partnership approach also takes account of the increased proportion of capital resources now made available to schools by the DCSF as devolved formula capital (DFC). School contributions are negotiated on an individual basis by Walsall Children's Services – Serco, and are detailed in **Appendix B** of this report. Any individual schemes where school contributions are not yet finalised will be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 4.1.3 A total of £3,045,651 capital has been allocated by the DCSF through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant, across the financial years (2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11). The grant will be paid to Walsall in equal amounts of £1,015,217 in each year. Nationally, local authorities have faced major difficulties in progressing the investment of the early years capital because of the

complexities associated with it. In view of this, the DCSF has agreed that authorities' allocations for 2008/09 and 2009/10 can be carried forward across the programme. This situation prevails in Walsall and the DCSF has confirmed that unspent capital can be carried forward from 2008/09 into 2009/10 and from 2009/10 into 2010/2011. Local authorities are unable to carry-forward unspent amounts beyond 2010/11 and will be expected to utilise all their capital funding by the financial year 2010/11. Given the more rapid progress that has now been made, arrangements will be in place to ensure that all capital will be spent within this period.

- 4.1.4 The majority of schemes are to be managed by Walsall Council Property Services who will ensure compliance with all Walsall Council Finance and Contract Rules. For Schemes at Voluntary Aided schools, the trustees of the individual schools are responsible for ensuring compliance with the DCSF's contractual and financial requirements.

4.2 Legal:

- 4.2.1 The schemes identified in this report at Aldridge School and the schemes to be carried out through the School Access Initiative budget will be managed through Walsall Council Property Services and they will ensure that all statutory obligations in relation to the schemes are adhered to. These issues include building regulations, planning approvals, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM). This is in addition to ensuring compliance with Walsall Council Financial and Contract Rules and compliance with the European regime and regulations covering the procurement of goods, services and contracts of work.
- 4.2.2 Schemes funded through the Local Education Authority Controlled Voluntary Aided Programme [LCVAP] will be managed by the trustees of the individual schools. The responsibility for complying with the above legislation etc will therefore be the responsibility of the trustees.
- 4.2.3 Walsall Council Procurement Team will manage the tendering process for the purchase of Early Years equipment and they will ensure compliance with the Walsall Council finance and contract rules.

4.3 Staffing:

- 4.3.1 There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

5. Citizen impact

All schemes will contribute to an improved learning environment for Walsall pupils, their families and the wider community.

6. Community safety

- 6.1 Security issues will be considered as part of the development of schemes.

- 6.2 The Early Years Foundation stage includes numerous references to the provision of quality outdoor experiences for young children, to include risk taking in a safe and secure environment, giving children skills and the ability to protect themselves from harm both within a setting and in their wider community.

7. Environmental impact

All schemes will incorporate the use of sustainable resources wherever possible and designs would incorporate developments to reduce the impact on the environment.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 Risk:

- 8.1.1 Construction programmes are at risk of delays that might affect the timescales and cost of projects that may require adjustments to the programme. These risks will be managed as far as is practicable on an ongoing basis.
- 8.1.2 Failure to procure and receive goods or complete capital projects for Early Years capital within the DCSF prescribed timescales would result in loss of unspent grant funding.

8.2 Performance management:

- 8.2.1 There are specific criteria established by the DCSF for the project management of schemes funded by the Capital Programme within the designated timeframe.

9. Equality implications

The proposed schemes would result in improved learning environments for pupils and families in Walsall schools and Children's Centres.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 Relevant stakeholders including schools, Diocesan Authorities and Foundation representatives, as appropriate. Walsall Council: Property Services, Transforming Learning and Children's Services Finance.
- 10.2 Detailed consultation with individual settings in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sector, including Children's Centres has been undertaken.

Background papers

Education Asset Management Plan

DCSF letter dated 11 November 2008: Primary Capital Programme: Notification of Assessment outcomes

Report to Cabinet 22 October 2008 - Early Years Capital programme 2008 to 2011

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Signed:
Interim Executive Director:
Pauline Pilkington
Date: 6 July 2009



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor R Walker
Date: 6 July 2009



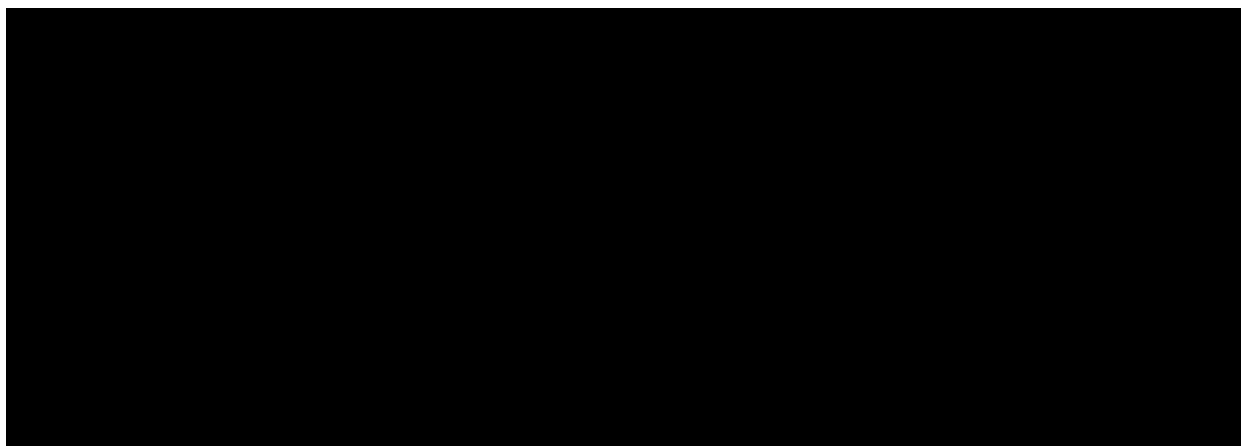
Signed:
Tony Stainer
Managing Director, Walsall Children's
Services, Serco
Date: 6 July 2009



Signed:
Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Andrew
Date: 6 July 2009

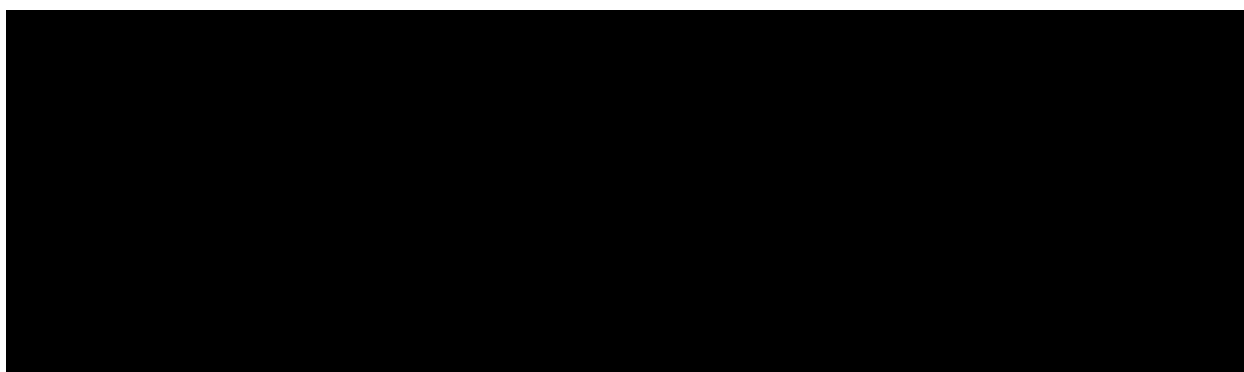
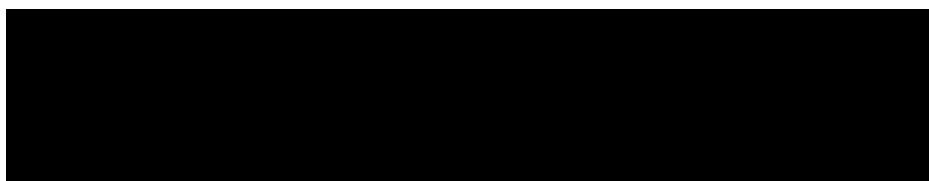
Section 106 - Primary - Previously Approved Schemes

School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	Allocation £
Birchills CE Primary Community	Significant enlargement and structural works	4,815,000	100,000	21,177.00
Chuckery Primary	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,900,000	100,000	18,852.65
Leighswood	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,000,000	50,000	93,887.58



LCVAP - Previously Approved Schemes

School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution DFC £ (In addition to Governor's 10%)	2008/09 Allocation £	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Blue Coat CE Infant School	Electrical works	105,000.00	15,000.00	26,135.00	63,865.00	
Queen Mary's High School	Replacement sports pavilion	278,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	178,000.00	



Basic Need - Previously Approved Schemes						
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	2008/09 Allocation £	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Birchills CE Primary Community	Significant enlargement and structural works	4,815,000	100,000	637,090	1,443,204	321,732
Christ Church CE JMI	Replacement school building	5,550,000	TBC			721,472
Croft Community Primary	Demolition of former Community Association building, internal remodelling and extensions to teaching areas	1,750,000	TBC			200,000
Leighswood	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,000,000	50,000	756,114		
Total				756,114	0	200,000

* Individual school contributions are currently being negotiated. Agreed contributions will be reported to a future cabinet meeting.

** Funding of £300,000 to support start-up costs for the Academies programme (Darlaston and Sheffield) was allocated from savings from previous basic need schemes

Targeted Capital Funding - Previously Approved Schemes				
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	Allocation £
Elmwood School	Refurbishment of existing Manor Farm building to provide new school accommodation	1,700,000	0	200,000
Rosedale CE Infant	Development of new facilities to broaden the curriculum and raise standards across the federation	480,455	96,091	384,364
Total				584,364
Balance Available				0

Appendix A

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Modernisation - Previously Approved Schemes

School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	2008/09 Allocation £	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Abbey Primary	Replacement fire alarm and rewiring	90,000	50,000	40,000		
Barcroft Primary	New 2FE School	9,000,000			1,110,000	2,350,000
Brownhills West Primary	Roofing	70,000	50,000		20,000	
Caldmore Primary School	Replacement of mobile classrooms including extensions and remodelling to resolve related suitability issues					
		1,075,000	100,000	606,114	341,886	27,000
Castle Business & Enterprise College	Rewiring and Electrical Works	120,000	20,000	100,000		
Christ Church CE JMI	Replacement school building	5,550,000	TBC		89,056	49,925
Chuckery Primary	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,900,000	100,000	609,034	350,000	
County Bridge Primary	Replacement of heat emitters	60,000	15,000	45,000		
Croft Community Primary	Demolition of former Community Association building, internal remodelling and extensions to teaching areas	1,750,000	TBC		50,000	
Darlaston Community Science College	Electrical Capacity	75,000	0		75,000 *	
Darlaston Community Science College	Condition Survey Work	350,000	0		350,000 *	
Harden Primary	Replacement fire alarm and rewiring	110,000	55,000	55,000		
Joseph Leckie Community Technology College	Duplex Teaching units	200,000	0	200,000		
Lindens Primary	Roofing and Brickwork Repairs	190,000	30,000	50,407 **		
Lindens Primary	Rewire	110,000	30,000		80,000	
Lindens Primary	Fire Alarm & Fire Door Installation	80,000	15,000	65,000		
Lower Farm Primary	Fencing to enclose additional playing field area on Ashbou	25,000		25,000 *		
Millfield Primary	Refurbishment of hot and cold water services	60,000	15,000	45,000		
Pelsall Village	Demolish dilapidated double mobile	15,000		15,000 ***		
Pheasey Park Farm Primary	Rewire	100,000	70,000		30,000	
Sandbank Nursery	Re-Roofing of main Nursery	80,000	25,000	55,000		
Sheffield Sports and Community College	Fire retardant paint to steel work	250,000			250,000	
Short Heath Junior	Replacement Windows and associated asbestos works	90,000	70,000	20,000		
St Giles CE Primary	Roofing & brickwork repairs to early years building	100,000	0	100,000		
St Giles CE Primary	Replacement of defective cold water supply pipework and refurbish hot water services	60,000	15,000	45,000		
St Michaels CE Primary	Replace defective distribution pipework and hot and cold water services	100,000	25,000	75,000		
St Michael's CE Primary	Provision of new nursery in conjunction with extended schools project	460,000		138,000 ****		
Sunshine Infant Nursery	Refurbishment of hot and cold water services	60,000	15,000	45,000		
The Radleys Primary	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	800,000	100,000	600,000		
Walsall Wood Primary	Replacement of defective cold water supply pipework	30,000	10,000	20,000		
Watling Street Primary	Heating	200,000	80,000		120,000	
Whitehall Nursery and Infant	Replacement Windows	100,000	50,000		50,000	
Willenhall School Sports College	Replacement Ceilings including asbestos removal	100,000	50,000		50,000	
Woodlands Primary	Internal Remodelling and Refurbishments and Extension to provide new Secure Nursery Entrance and Cloaks					
		700,000	100,000	500,000		
Various	Primary Capital Programme - Feasibility Studies	150,000	0	150,000		
Various	Provision of Measured Plans and Updating of Condition Surveys - Phase 1	250,000	0	250,000		
Total				3,853,555	2,965,942	2,426,925

* No school contribution, as this involves the increase of playing field area to the school due to existing site being undersized

** The remaining funding required for this scheme was approved from the remaining 2007/08 Priority 1 funding at the 16 July 2008 Cabinet meeting.

*** The school has relocated their before and after school care into the existing building. This is considered as their contribution to the cost of the removal of the dilapidated mobile accommodation

**** This funding is to enable replacement of unsuitable nursery accommodation as part of larger extended schools project

Primary Capital Programme - Previously Approved Schemes

School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Birchills CE Primary Community	Significant enlargement and structural works	4,815,000	100,000	2,331,797	
Christ Church CE JMI	Replacement school building	5,550,000	TBC	375,932	4,263,615
Chuckery Primary	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,900,000	100,000	750,000	72,114
Croft Community Primary	Demolition of former Community Association building, internal remodelling and extensions to teaching areas	1,750,000	TBC	300,000	1,200,000
Leighswood	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	1,000,000	100,000	100,000	
The Radleys Primary	Mobile Replacement and Remodelling of Existing Accommodation	800,000	100,000	100,000	
Woodlands Primary	Internal Remodelling and Refurbishments and Extension to provide new Secure Nursery Entrance and Cloaks				
		700,000	100,000	100,000	
Various	PCP Feasibility Studies	200,000		100,000	100,000
Various	Primary Capital Programme - Contingency	200,000	0	200,000	
Total				1,650,000	1,372,114

* Individual school contributions are currently being negotiated. Agreed contributions will be reported to a future cabinet meeting.

Early Years Capital - Previously Approved Schemes (Children's Centre agreed allocation)			2008/09
School	Project	Project Cost	2008/09 Allocation
Brownhills Children's Centre	Enhancement of external play area at St James Primary school site	35,000	35,000
Bloxwich West Children's Centre	Enhancement of external play area at Mossley Primary school site	20,000	20,000
Total			55,000

Children's Centre Maintenance - Previously Approved Schemes			2008/09
School	Project	Project Cost	2008/09 Allocation
Edgar Stammers Children's Centre	Render to brickwork on front elevation	29,000	29,000
Bentley West Children's Centre	Pedestrian access and main entrance doors	18,000	18,000
Total			47,000

Black Country Challenge - Previously Approved Schemes			2008/09
School	Project	Project Cost	2008/09 Allocation
Brownhills Community Technology College	Enhancement of ICT equipment to specialist ICT classrooms	60,000	60,000
Blue Coat CE Performing Arts Specialist College	Extension and remodel to school library learning space	60,000	60,000
Total			120,000

Schools Access Initiative		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Allocation		£586,620	£586,620	£586,620
Commitments		£530,000	£0	£0
Allocation - Balance Available		£56,620	£586,620	£586,620
School	Project	2008/09 Allocation £	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Various Schools	Upgrade to minimum standard		350,000	
Total		0	350,000	0
Balance Available		56,620	236,620	586,620

Section 106 - Secondary				
Available Funding				£1,014,640.59
Commitments				£674,458.14
Available Funding - Balance Remaining				£340,182.45
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution £	Allocation £
Aldridge School - A Science School	Improvements to Learning Environment - Phased replacement of curtain walling to main teaching blocks	115,000.00	67,286.18	47,713.82 *
Total				47,713.82
Balance Available				292,468.63

* This scheme is mainly being funded by the school budget. The £47,713.82 is made up of contributions of £11,014.61 (relating to contribution received for the development at 12-14 Little Aston Road) and £32,277.62 (relating to contribution received for the development at 4 Seasons Public House)

LCVAP				2009/10	2010/11
Allocation				£1,133,843	£1,133,843
Commitments				£284,683	£0
Balance Remaining				£849,160	£1,133,843
School	Project	Project Cost £	School Contribution DFC £ (In addition to Governor's 10%)	2009/10 Allocation £	2010/11 Allocation £
Blue Coat CE Infant School	Re-roofing to main hall	200,000	40,000	0.00	160,000.00
Blue Coat CE Junior School	Fire Service inspection remedial works	300,000	95,420	204,580.00	0.00
Blue Coat CE Performing Arts Specialist College	Sports hall upgrade	100,000	25,000	75,000.00	0.00
Queen Mary's Grammar School	Heating improvement works	60,000	10,000	50,000.00	0.00
St Josephs Catholic Primary	Replacement of dilapidated mobile accommodation with two new build classrooms	330,000	30,000	119,579.95	180,420.05
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College	Refurbishment and enhancement of sixth form accommodation	330,000	30,000	0.00	300,000.00
St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School	Internal Remodelling scheme to provide a food technology room	90,000	20,000	0.00	70,000.00
St Mary of the Mount Catholic Primary	Refurbishment of enhanced staff accommodation	195,000	25,000	140,000.00	30,000.00
St Patrick's Catholic Primary	Heating works	150,000	20,000	130,000.00	0.00
St Peter's Catholic Primary	Relighting scheme	150,000	20,000	130,000.00	0.00
Total			315,420	849,160	740,420
Balance Available				0	393,423

Extended Schools Capital				2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Allocation				£507,472	£537,679	£277,901
Commitments				£507,472	£446,028	£0
Remaining Balance				£0	£91,651	£277,901
School	Project	Project Cost	School Contribution	2008/09 Allocation	2009/10 Allocation	2010/11 Allocation
Barcroft Primary	Provision of new extended services facilities including community room	277,901	N/A	-	-	277,901
Total				0	0	277,901
Balance Available				0	91,651	0

Early Years Capital (agreed allocation - equipment)			2008/09
Allocation			£750,000
Commitments			£0
Remaining Balance			£750,000
School	Project	Project Cost	2008/09 Allocation
All Primary Schools	Wooden Blocks, Waterproof clothing, shade, Laptop / digital camers / printer / cartridges	233,200	233,200
Early Years Private, Independent and Voluntary Settings	Wooden Blocks, Waterproof clothing, shade, Laptop / digital camers / printer / cartridges	168,200	168,200
Childminders	Wooden Blocks, Waterproof clothing, shade, Laptop / digital camers / printer / cartridges	325,500	325,500
Total			726,900
Balance Available			23,100