

**Open Report on behalf of Peter Duxbury, Executive Director, Adults and Children's**

Report to:	<b>Schools' Forum</b>
Date:	<b>April 2011</b>
Subject:	<b>Children Services Capital Strategy</b>

**Summary:** The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Schools' Forum regarding the Children's Services Capital Programme. The capital programme for Children's Services is heavily influenced by a combination of Children's Services strategic service priorities and the DfE. The funding allocated is primarily a specific grant but also includes supported borrowing.

**Recommendation:** The Schools' Forum is asked to comment on the report.

## **Background**

The Children's Services capital work is predominately delivered through Mouchel as the Authority's strategic partner. Children's Services are working with the corporate centre and Mouchel to further improve systems for the capital programme management, to enable a more effective and efficient programme to be delivered. These include the need for greater consistency, quality and value for money. In line with corporate management practices a Children Services Capital Programme board has been set up to: monitor the capital programme; to work with Mouchel and the programme centre to adopt corporate standards for project management and to also consider a "payment by results" system for project management.

Not all work streams are managed by Mouchel, the academies programme is to be delivered through the academies framework on a design and build basis and in addition, funds devolved to schools are delivered under school governance.

## **Capital Prioritisation**

Given the government reduction in public spending there is a real need to prioritise the capital programme. Therefore the following work-streams are in order of priority, on the basis of the Capital Programme Strategy for Children's Services for the next 5 years:

### **Work-stream 1: Provision of school places**

- Meet the statutory responsibility for provision of education in Lincolnshire;
- Plan to meet the emerging needs for additional school places;
- Delivery of new schools and expansion of existing schools;

#### **Work-stream 2: Schools condition / repairs.**

- High priority maintenance requirements to preserve the fabric of school buildings; the Property and Technology Management team with Mouchel will prioritise the list of condition related elements using the Technology Forge database. £3m per year for two years has been allocated for 2011-13 .

#### **Work-stream 3: Schools suitability & modernisation**

Within this work-stream it is important to remember there are some key priorities including; implementation of school reorganisations; development of academies and meeting our vision for the reconfiguration of specialist provision.

#### **Work-stream 4: Business Development and Information Technology**

Business driven change to realise savings and benefits to front line services;

- Consider refining the Integrated Children's System (ICS) to ensure it is better fit for future requirements;
- Replacement of obsolete information management systems to allow more efficient business performance

Please note ICT developments will be driven and led through the corporate ICT team and are subject to review.

#### **Work Stream 5: Sufficiency**

- Respond to the outcomes of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) regarding the sufficiency of childcare provision/places across the county.

There will also be a rationalisation of all facilities to enable Children's Services to deliver Core Offer and achieve facilities management efficiencies; however Children's Services do not propose to allocate any funding to this area of work. Any investment will be on an "invest to save" basis.