



Leicester
City Council

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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Children & Young People's Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet**

**10 June 2009
22nd June 09**

St Andrews Contact Centre: update re capital bid

Report of the Interim Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to the release of £82,000 from the Corporate Capital Programme in respect of the St Andrews Contact Centre, included within Block B of the Capital Programme report approved by Cabinet on 17th November 2008 and Council on 27th November 2008.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The proposed scheme relates specifically to the Health and Safety of users of the building, which include vulnerable children and adults, and safety of staff. All items have been subject to detailed assessments and advice from colleagues in relevant Council Departments.
- 2.2 Some repair works have previously been funded through the central maintenance fund i.e. resurfacing the car park and a number of replacement windows. Given the priorities on the central maintenance fund this has been put forward on the Corporate Capital Programme in order that works be completed in a timely fashion.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the release of £82,000 from the Corporate Capital Programme in respect of the St Andrews Contact Centre, included within Block B of the Capital Programme report approved by Cabinet on 17th November 2008 and Council on 27th November 2008.

4. Report

- 4.1 St Andrews provides a structured setting for parents to have meaningful contact with their children, as part of ongoing assessments when their children cannot live with them due to high levels of risk. The very nature of the work means situations can be fraught.

The Centre is extremely well used, at all times of the working day, and wear and tear is significant.

- 4.2 It is proposed to expend the £82,000 on partially double glazing the centre to replace existing timber framed single glazed windows, security lighting to external areas, the installation of external CCTV, the improvement of internal lighting standards and replacing the Centre's heating system. In planning the improvements to the centre, consideration will be given to the viability of integrating a combined heat and power system that is available on the estate where the centre is located.
- 4.3 The proposed work is not cosmetic but necessary to ensure the building is fit for purpose, safe and meets the needs of children. The justification for these works is that the heating system is old and inefficient, and some users are very young babies or toddlers. Intruders have gained access to the building through the windows and vandalism has been a significant issue previously. CCTV would provide another measure of protection for families, children and staff and is assessed as a Health and Safety requirement. Lighting levels do not meet current health and safety requirements and also need to be improved.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

This report seeks the release of funding set aside within the 2008/09 Capital Programme; there are no other direct financial implications. –
Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, CYPS, ext. 29 7750

5.2 Legal Implications

The report is largely concerned with funding & budget issues in relation to refurbishment aimed at improving health and safety for staff and families using the centre. Other than the obvious duty to ensure the centre meets health and safety criteria which meet the basic legal requirements both for staff and families including vulnerable users such as children there are no legal issues arising directly out of the report.

Cathy Healy, Team Leader, Community Services

5.3 HR Implications

These proposals would improve the working conditions and the safety of staff employed to work at the Centre.

Brian Berkovits, HR

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes		
Policy	Yes		
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	Yes		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

7. Report Author

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Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)