

**TO: SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**DATE 9 FEBRUARY 2012**

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**LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2012/13**  
**(Director of Children, Young People & Learning)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Under the Council's constitution, the Executive is required to consult on its detailed budget proposals with the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Commission and other interested parties for a period of at least six weeks. This report presents an overview of the Council's budget position and the specific proposals relevant to the Children, Young People and Learning (CYPL) Department to the Schools Forum for comment.
- 1.2 At the time the Executive agenda was published the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement had not been announced. A Provisional 2012/13 Settlement was announced in January 2011 and the Council has been developing its budget proposals on this basis. It is not expected that the final settlement will differ greatly from the provisional.
- 1.3 All comments received on these budget proposals will be submitted to the Executive on 21 February along with details of the final finance settlement. This will allow the Executive to determine its final budget package and recommend the appropriate Council Tax level to Council, who will formally approve the 2012/13 budget and Council Tax on 29 February 2012.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That the Schools Forum comments on the 2012/13 budget proposals of the Executive for the Children, Young People and Learning Department in respect of:**
- i. **The revenue budget (Annexes B and C), and**
  - ii. **The capital programme (Annex D).**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Executive seeks the views of the Schools Forum as an interested party on the 2012/13 budget proposals.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The range of options being considered is included in the report and its Annexes.

## 5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Revenue Budget

Commitment budget 2011/12 – 2014/15

- 5.1 Initial preparations for the 2012/13 budget have focussed on the Council's Commitment Budget for 2012/13 – 2014/15. This brings together the Council's existing expenditure plans, taking account of approved commitments and the ongoing effects of service developments and efficiencies that were agreed when the 2011/12 budget was set.
- 5.2 A number of changes are proposed to the Commitment Budget since it was last considered by the Executive in July and are reflected in the summary. The most significant are set out below:
- Based on the impact of the additional bank holiday for the royal wedding, significant costs are no longer expected to arise from the diamond jubilee. The additional budget built into 2011/12 can therefore be removed a year earlier (-£0.060m).
  - The impact of the national insurance changes introduced on 1 April 2011 was less than originally forecast. This has enabled £0.129m to be removed from the commitment budget.
  - Allowances to cover the Carbon Reduction Commitment in schools have already been provided for centrally within the Schools Budget and can therefore be removed from the Council Wide budget (-£0.072m).
  - Increases in projected landfill tax and waste disposal costs (£0.247m).
  - The additional resources built into the budget for 2011/12 to cover pay increases for staff paid less than £21,000 were not required. However the amount has been retained in the Commitment Budget to provide some flexibility in dealing with any immediate issues that may arise from implementing changes following the job evaluation review that has been undertaken.
- 5.3 Taking account of these changes, Table 1 summarises the position and shows that base expenditure (excluding schools) is planned to rise by £0.145m to £76.400m next year, before consideration is given to allowances for inflation and the budget proposals identified by individual Departments in 2012/13. The commitment budget for CYPL is shown in more detail in Annex A.

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Table 1: Summary Commitment Budget 2012/13-2014/15

	Planned Expenditure		
	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Base Budget	76,255	76,400	76,735
<i>Movements in Year:</i>			
Chief Executive / Corporate Services	-106	-85	0
Children, Young People and Learning (excluding schools)	4	-110	-160
Adult Social Care and Health	-49	0	0
Environment, Culture & Communities	454	26	23
Non Departmental / Common	-158	504	0
<i>Total Movements</i>	145	335	-137
<b>Adjusted Base</b>	<b>76,400</b>	<b>76,735</b>	<b>76,598</b>

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2012/13

*National Perspective*

- 5.4 The 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review announced in October 2010 set out the national medium term funding proposals for public sector expenditure. In line with these control totals the Local Government Financial Settlement, published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011, set out detailed funding proposals for local authorities covering the period 2011/12 and 2012/13. As such a Provisional 2012/13 Settlement was announced in January 2011 and the Council has been developing its budget proposals on this basis.
- 5.5 The pre-announced Provisional Settlement reflected a further reduction of £2.97m in Formula Grant for Bracknell Forest (£23.12m in 2012/13m compared to £26.09m in 2011/12) representing a reduction of 10.4% (in line with the maximum reduction possible under the Floor damping mechanism). A number of small increases in Specific Grants for 2012/13 were announced as part of the Settlement including increases in the Early Intervention Grant and the Learning Disability and Health Reform Grant. This additional income is reflected in the summary of proposals in Table 4, below.
- 5.6 In addition to Formula and Specific grants the Government introduced the New Homes Bonus in 2011/12, designed to encourage the development of new homes. The Council received £0.647m in 2011/12 (of which £0.600m is reflected in the commitment budget) and is expected to receive a further £0.787m in 2012/13. As the New Homes Bonus is payable for 6 years, the Council will therefore receive a total of £1.434m in 2012/13. The significant increase reflects the removal from the tax-base of the Enid Wood House properties. Whilst the removal of the approximately 150 properties at Enid Wood House from the Council's Tax Base has reduced potential Council Tax in 2012/13, the calculation of the New Homes Bonus treats their removal as if they were empty properties brought back in to use (as their removal means they are no longer recorded as being empty). As such this represents an anomaly that will

not be repeated in the future. Excluding this exceptional item would have reduced the additional New Homes Bonus to £0.493m in 2012/13.

- 5.7 The Government recently consulted, as part of the Local Government Resource Review, on comprehensive changes to the funding of local government through the localisation of Business Rates. The Government's ambition is to introduce these changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. As such the level of funding for Bracknell Forest in 2013/14 and 2014/15 is considerably uncertain. The most robust information available to the Council is therefore the change in Departmental Control Totals published as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which indicates further reductions of 2% in 2013/14 and 4% in 2014/15. As such these levels of reduction in Formula Grant have been applied to the short-term funding model.

#### *Council Tax*

- 5.8 The collection fund is expected to break even in 2011/12. Following the zero increase in the current year, Council Tax at present levels will generate total income of £48.473m in 2012/13. In addition a further £0.339m will be generated from the increase in tax base arising from the occupation of new properties and other changes in exemptions and discounts during 2012/13.
- 5.9 The Government has prioritised keeping Council Tax increases to the minimum possible next year. To support this aim, the Department for Communities and Local Government has announced that it will give councils who agree to freeze or reduce Council Tax in 2012/13 a one-off grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in Council Tax.
- 5.10 The Executive intends to accept the Coalition Government's offer to work in partnership with local authorities to protect council tax payers with a Council Tax freeze, thereby passing on the benefit to the council tax payers. The working assumption upon which the proposals in this report are based at this stage, therefore, is that there will be no increase in Council Tax and that the Council will receive additional grant from central Government of £1.220m to offset this.
- 5.11 In contrast with 2011/12's Council Tax Freeze Grant, the grant for 2012/13 is one-off which will lead to an additional pressure in 2013/14 when the grant is withdrawn. In effect this means that, unless the government changes its position and extends the 2012/13 grant, the level of savings required in subsequent years will increase by £1.220m. The alternative would be an increase in Council Tax of 2.5% more than that which is needed to fund any year on year changes between 2012/13 and 2013/14, which is unlikely to be acceptable.

#### Budget Proposals for 2012/13

##### *Service pressures and Developments*

- 5.12 In the face of significant reductions in public expenditure in general and in grants to Local Government in particular the scope to invest in new service provision is self evidently severely restricted. Nevertheless, it is important to retain a clear focus to ensure that the Council continues to improve services where possible and to invest in the Borough, focussing on protecting front line services and delivering the Council's new Medium Term Objectives. In preparing the 2012/13 draft budget proposals each department has evaluated the potential pressures on its services and these are summarised below in Table 2:

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Table 2: Service Pressures/Development

	£'000
Chief Executive / Corporate Services	150
Children, Young People and Learning (excluding schools)	1,029
Adult Social Care and Health	405
Environment, Culture & Communities	<u>275</u>
<b>Total Pressures/Developments</b>	<b>1,859</b>

5.13 Many of the pressures are simply unavoidable and respond only to changing demographic trends, particularly as they principally relate to increases in children and young people in care, increases in client numbers within Adult Social Care or the economic climate. They do, however, also support the Council's six overarching priorities and medium term objectives in the following way:

- Promote health & achievement (£1.029m)
- Create a Borough where people are safe and feel safe (£0.405m)

5.14 The Children Young People and Learning pressures include proposals to support and recruit more foster carers and adoptive families with the intention of reducing placement costs for looked after children, thereby generating future savings or, at least, containing the costs of further increases in the number of such children. There is also a substantial pressure to cover the care and accommodation costs of children currently being looked after where there has been a 20% increase in numbers. The full proposals from CYPL are detailed in Annex B.

5.15 In addition to these revenue proposals the Council continues to invest in its priorities through targeted capital expenditure, details of which are set out below in the paragraphs that present the proposed capital programme.

*Service Economies /Balancing the Budget*

5.16 Since March 2011 the Executive and CMT have held regular meetings to determine options for savings in order to balance the budget and a list of potential draft budget savings has been developed. This list totals £5.123m and is summarised in Table 3. As in previous years, these economies focus as far as possible on central and departmental support rather than on front-line services. However, since it became a Unitary Authority the Council has successfully delivered savings of around £50m in total. Against this background of continually bearing down on costs and driving to improve efficiency it is becoming increasingly difficult to find further savings in these areas, which would not compromise the Council's ability to function effectively.

Table 3: Summary Service Economies

	£'000
Chief Executive / Corporate Services	673
Children, Young People and Learning (excluding schools)	1,607
Adult Social Care and Health	1,149
Environment, Culture and Communities	<u>1,694</u>
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>5,123</b>

The potential economies which the Executive is considering for the CYPL Department are outlined in Annex C.

*Council Wide Issues*

5.17 Apart from the specific departmental budget proposals there are some Council wide issues affecting all departments' budgets which need to be considered. The precise impact of these corporate budgets is likely to change before the final budget proposals are recommended. However the current view on these issues is outlined in the following paragraphs:

a) Capital Programme

The scale of the Council's Capital Programme for 2012/13 will impact upon the revenue budget and is itself subject to consultation over the coming weeks. All new spending on services will need to be funded from new capital receipts or borrowing from internal resources. The proposed Council Funded Capital Programme for 2012/13 is £9.485m. After allowing for projected receipts of £3m in 2012/13, but excluding the self-funding Invest to Save schemes, the additional revenue costs will be £0.032m in 2012/13 and £0.164m in 2013/14.

b) Interest and Investments

Growth in the UK economy is expected to be weak over the next two years and there is a risk of a technical recession. Bank Rate, currently at 0.5%, underpins investment returns and is not expected to start increasing until quarter 3 of 2013 despite inflation currently being well above the Monetary Policy Committee inflation target. Hopes for an export led recovery appear likely to be disappointed due to the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis depressing growth in the UK's biggest export market. The comprehensive Spending Review which seeks to reduce the UK's annual fiscal deficit will also depress growth during the next few years.

This challenging and uncertain economic outlook has several key treasury management implications.

- The Eurozone sovereign debt difficulties, most evident in Greece, provide a clear indication of much higher risk in lending money. This continues to suggest that only organisations with high credit ratings should be used and for shorter time periods
- Investment returns are likely to remain relatively low during 2012/13

The Council continues to regard security of the principal sum it invests as the key objective of its treasury management activities.

The 2012/13 budget is therefore based on an average rate of return of approximately 1% and reflects the lower cash balances as a result of the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Capital Programmes. The 2011/12 budget was based on a return of 0.9% and as such expected interest income is projected to increase marginally from the higher interest rate. However additional income will be generated resulting from additional cash flow resulting from the expected repayment of Icelandic deposits and the increase in capital grants from DfE during 2011/12. Given the level of cash balances the Council can once again make maximum use of the arrangement to make a pre-payment on its pension fund contributions and thus earn a higher discount than could be earned through its own investment opportunities. Taken together this should generate additional income of £0.152m. However should interest rates

## Unrestricted

fall further, every 0.1% reduction in the average rate of return would add a £0.025m pressure to the General Fund.

The Council reviews the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement under the requirement of the 2011 revised CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (“the CIPFA TM Code”). The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to “have regard to the Prudential Code” and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

### c) Provision for Inflation and Pay Awards

The Commitment Budget excludes the cost of inflation on both expenditure and income. In past years, the Council has restricted the provision for inflation on prices as a general economy measure, to help address the underlying budget gap, although pay awards have been fully funded. In the context of the Council’s overall financial position, it is again prudent to consider where the provision for inflation on prices can be limited as an economy measure, although some exceptions will be necessary to reflect actual increases that will not be containable without real service reductions and to meet contractual commitments. In particular it will be important to have realistic discussions with key providers about what level of inflation is genuinely necessary on some contracts and placements.

At this stage the inflation provision is not finalised, although for planning purposes a sum of £1.500m has been added to the budget. This compares to a provision of £0.545m last year and reflects the higher rates of inflation this year (consumer price inflation at 5.2% and retail price inflation at 5.6% in September). Containing the inflation provision to this level could be achieved by:

- Freezing pay budget lines;
- Having zero inflation for a number of budget lines rather than the Retail Price Index;
- Using 2% inflation for a number of budget lines;
- Negotiating to minimise inflation on contracts;
- Increasing fees and charges by 4.0% unless this is inconsistent with the Council’s income policy.

The Council will need to consider where it is appropriate and necessary to provide for inflation over the coming weeks so that the actual inflation provision can be added to the final budget report in February 2012.

### d) Fees and Charges

The Council established a policy for the review of fees and charges when setting the 2001/02 budget. This requires each Department to consider the level of charges against the following criteria:

- Fees and Charges should aim, as a minimum, to cover the costs of delivering the service;
- Where a service operates in free market conditions, fees and charges should at least be set at the market rate;

## Unrestricted

- Fees and charges should not be levied where this is an ineffective use of resources, i.e. the cost of collection exceeds any income generated.

It is estimated that most prices, where the Council charges users a fee for services, will need to increase by around 4.0% to recover the costs of those services. However, where current economic conditions and the market rate indicate a different percentage, for example for leisure income, this has been applied. Certain other fees also attract a different percentage as they are determined by statute. The proposed fees and charges that can be determined by CYPL that are not proposed to increase by around 4% are as follows:

- Tea and coffee at the Education Centre to increase by 6.9% - 7.7%
- Photocopying at the Education Centre to increase by 4.7 – 25% (note this reflects increases on very low process e.g. from 4p to 5p per copy)
- Attendance fees for Youth Clubs not to change
- Tuck shop goods in Youth Centres to increase by up to 6.3%
- Sessional fees in Children's Centres to increase by 5%

### e) Corporate Contingency

The financial risks facing the Council are at a similar overall level to those experienced last year. The Council manages these uncertainties in the budget through the use of a general contingency added to the Council's budget. A sum of £1m is currently included for contingency in the budget proposals for 2012/13.

During the next year the Council will continue to face significant risks on its budget particularly in relation to demand led budgets. Therefore the Borough Treasurer recommends that the general contingency should be set at £1m which is equal to the contingency for 2011/12.

The Executive will need to make a judgement on the appropriate level of contingency at its February meeting, taking advice from the Borough Treasurer who will need to certify the robustness of the overall budget proposals in the context of the Council's remaining general and earmarked reserves. All the reserves will be reviewed to ensure that they are sufficient to manage the financial risks facing the Council in the coming years.

### *Spending on Schools*

- 5.18 The Schools Budget – both delegated school funding and centrally managed items such as Special Educational Needs placements made outside of the Borough - is funded by a specific Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) with any year end balance, either surplus or deficit, required to be ring-fenced within the Schools Budget. Therefore, use of this funding is outside the control of the Council. The draft budget proposals assume the Schools Budget is set at the level of DSG and that any accumulated deficit or surplus is managed to a nil balance by the end of the three year budget period.
- 5.19 However, Local Authorities have a legal duty to set the overall level of Schools Budget and individual budgets for each of their schools by 31 March. This must be no



## Unrestricted

lower than the level of anticipated DSG, but can be higher, if the Council decides to add a top up.

- 5.20 Decisions around the final balance of the budget between spending by schools and that on pupil services managed by the Council is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Education, although the Schools Forum must be consulted, and in certain circumstances, agree to spending increases on the services managed by the Council.

### *Summary position on the Revenue Budget*

- 5.21 Adding the draft proposals to the Commitment Budget and taking account of the corporate issues identified above would result in total expenditure of £73.099m as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of proposals:

	£'000
Commitment Budget	76,400
2012/13 Budget Pressures	1,859
2012/13 Budget Economies	(5,123)
Capital Programme	32
Changes in Investment Income	(152)
Inflation Provision	1,500
Additional Specific Grants	(583)
Additional New Homes Bonus 2011/12	(47)
New Homes Bonus 2012/13	(787)
<b>Draft Budget Requirement 2012/13</b>	<b>73,099</b>

- 5.22 The Council can anticipate income of up to £73.156m. This arises from Government grants (£23.124m), additional Council Tax Freeze Grant (£1.220m) and Council Tax (£48.812m). While this creates a broadly balanced budget there is still uncertainty surrounding the final Local Government Financial Settlement and inevitably between December and February that additional information will become available which could impact on the budget proposals. The results of the consultation exercise will also need to be factored into the Council's final budget proposals.

### *Balances*

- 5.23 The Council will have an estimated £8.4m available in General Reserves at 31 March 2012. Based on keeping the minimum prudent level of reserves of £4m there is £5.4m available to support future expenditure. This assessment is based on the financial risks which face the Council and the Borough Treasurer considers these in the February report to the Executive.

## **Capital Programme**

### **Introduction**

- 5.24 The Local Government Act 2003 requires Councils to have regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when setting their capital expenditure plans, which must be affordable, prudent and sustainable.
- 5.25 The proposed capital programme for 2012/13 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of Government grants, other external contributions and some internal borrowing in addition to the £3m of capital receipts from the Council's share of right-to-buy sales of houses and miscellaneous sales of surplus land and property. The financing costs associated with the General Fund Capital Programme have been provided for in the Council's revenue budget plans as set out above.

### **New Schemes**

- 5.26 Within the general financial framework outlined above, Service Departments have considered new schemes for inclusion within the Council's Capital Programme for 2012/13 - 2014/15. Given that both capital and revenue resources are under pressure, each Department has evaluated and prioritised proposed schemes into the broad categories, set out in the Council's Corporate Capital Strategy and in line with the Council's Asset Management Plan. Having done this, only the very highest priority schemes and programmes are being recommended for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

#### **Unavoidable (Including committed schemes)**

This category covers schemes which must proceed to ensure that the Council is not left open to legal sanction and includes items relating to health and safety issues, new statutory legislation etc. Committed schemes also include those that have been started as part of the 2011/12 Capital Programme. Also included within this category are those schemes that were previously funded from the General Fund Revenue Account, but which by their nature could be legitimately capitalised, thereby reducing pressure on the revenue budget. Schemes in this category form the first call on the available capital resources.

Within these categories provision has been made to address the disabled access requirements to Council buildings (£0.1m). The works have been identified through independent access audits and have been prioritised to meet the needs of users of these buildings. Significant progress has been made in past years and a programme of works has been planned across a range of service areas.

#### **Maintenance (Improvements and capitalised repairs)**

An assessment has been made of the condition of the Council's property assets to arrive at an estimate of the outstanding maintenance works required. These are based on surveys carried out in 2011.

An assessment is made of the state of each building element and its repair priority with a condition rating and repair urgency as follows.

<b>Definition of Condition Categories</b>
A: Good – Performing as intended and operating efficiently. B: Satisfactory – Performing as intended but showing minor deterioration. C: Poor – Showing major defects and/or not operating as intended. D: Bad – Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.
<b>Priority:</b>
1 Urgent works that will prevent immediate closure of premises and/or address an immediate high risk to the health and safety of the occupants and/or remedy a serious breach of legislation. 2 Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a medium risk to the health & safety of the occupants and/or a minor breach of the legislation. 3 Desirable work required within 3 to 5 years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and/or address a low risk to the health & safety of the occupants and/or a minor breach of the legislation. 4 Long-term work required beyond a period of 5 years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services.

In line with the policy adopted in previous years the AMG has considered only those works that fall within categories 1C and 1D. Examples of key areas to be undertaken:

- Boiler & heating system replacement
- Roof works
- Electrical work - replace switchgear
- Swimming pool filters - replace
- Ventilation & Air Handling Units – Replace
- Fire Alarm & Security systems
- Insulation & fire protection - replace

The implications of failing to maintain Council buildings and to address the backlog will be a significant issue for the Council over the coming years and efforts will be focussed on ensuring that the highest priority items are tackled first, that efficiencies are maximised in the procurement of works and that maintenance which will result in energy efficiencies are undertaken through the invest-to-save programme, as set out in the Council's Asset Management Plan 2010.

### **Rolling programmes**

These programmes cover more than one year and give a degree of certainty for forward planning schemes to improve service delivery. They make an important contribution towards the Council's Medium Term Objectives and established Asset Management Plans.

### **Other Desirable Schemes**

In addition to the schemes identified in the above categories, each service has requested funding for other high priority schemes that meet the needs

## Unrestricted

and objectives of their service and the Council's Medium Term Objectives. The net cost of schemes which attract partial external funding are included in the schemes put forward.

### **Invest To Save Schemes**

These are schemes where the additional revenue income or savings arising from their implementation exceeds the internal borrowing costs. The Council's approach to Invest to Save schemes is included in its Capital Strategy and in accordance with the Capital Strategy it is proposed that a further £1m be included in the 2012/13 capital programme for potential Invest to Save schemes.

- 5.27 Scheme details relating to the CYPL Department are set out in Annex D, and these show Council funded expenditure proposed at £0.040m. The overall proposed capital programme requires £9.485m of funding from the Council. The following table summarises the draft programme for the CYPL Department.

Table 5: Summary of CYPL capital proposals:

Draft Capital Programme	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
Committed	0	700	1,700
Unavoidable	5	0	0
Maintenance – non-schools	5	0	0
Rolling Programme/other desirable – non-schools	30	0	0
<b>Total Council Funding</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,700</b>
External Funding – school related	5,913	1,995	2,765
<b>Total draft programme</b>	<b>5,953</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>4,465</b>

Schemes highlighted in years subsequent to 2012/13 are indicative only and not subject to approval at this stage. Those included within the programme to be funded by the Council will be reviewed before the commencement of each financial year.

### Externally Funded Schemes

- 5.28 A number of external funding sources are also available to fund schemes within the capital programme, amounting to £12.945m of investment in 2012/13. External support has been identified from two main sources:

#### *Government Grants*

- 5.29 A number of capital schemes attract specific grants. It is proposed that all such schemes should be included in the capital programme at the level of external funding that is available. However the capital programme will now include more detail on these programmes in that every project costing more than £50k is included or will be included in the February 2012 report as a "named" scheme.

The majority of the grant-funded capital programme relates to the planned investment in Schools. In 2011/12 the Department for Education (DfE) changed the way in which it delivered funding to local authorities, moving from supported borrowing approvals to capital grant. This simple change had a significant impact on the authority, as the supported borrowing approvals represented little or no cash increase to the Council's

## Unrestricted

resources, whereas the move to cash grants means the Council can effectively invest every £ of allocation from DfE.

The schools investment programme included in this report (and outlined in Annex D) is based on the latest available information on requirements, both maintenance and basic need, whilst at the same time reflecting the estimated level of funding that could be received in 2012/13 through the grant allocation process, based on the 2011/12 allocation. The actual level of grant received by the authority will not be known until the publication of the Local Government Finance Settlement which is due in December 2011. As such there is a presumption that the final agreed programme will be re-prioritised based on the level of funding actually received.

### Section 106

- 5.30 Each year the Council enters into a number of agreements under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 by which developers make a contribution towards the cost of providing facilities and infrastructure that may be required as a result of their development. Usually the monies are given for work in a particular area and/or for specific projects. The total money available at present, which is not financially committed to specific projects, is £4.15m, although conditions restricting its use will apply to almost all of this.

Officers have identified a number of schemes that could be funded from Section 106 funds in 2012/13, where funding becomes available. These are summarised below

Department	Schemes	Budget
		£000
CYPL	Schools	£697
ECC	Local Transport Plan	£750
ECC	Leisure, Culture & Visual Environment	£100
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,547</b>

As with grant funded schemes, in order to increase transparency, all capital schemes to be funded from S106 money costing more than £50k are included in the draft programme as specific named schemes or will be when it is finally agreed in February 2012.

### Funding options

- 5.31 There are a number of important issues concerning the long term funding of capital expenditure. Following the transfer of the housing stock in 2008, the Council's capital receipts are limited to miscellaneous asset sales and the contribution from the VAT Shelter Scheme and Right-to-Buy claw back agreed as part of the transfer. These receipts are likely to be depressed by the general economic conditions and as such receipts in 2012/13 are estimated to be in the region of £3m.
- 5.32 The proposed capital programme for 2012/13 has been developed, therefore, on the assumption that it will be funded by a combination of £3m of capital receipts, Government grants, other external contributions and some internal borrowing. The financing costs associated with the Capital Programme have been provided for in the Council's revenue budget plans.

## Unrestricted

- 5.33 Should any additional capital receipts be generated in 2012/13 the interest earned on these will be used to mitigate the revenue cost of the capital programme.
- 5.34 For 2012/13 it is unlikely that the Council will need to resort to external borrowing as it will be able to utilise revenue resources held internally. However the Capital Finance Regulations, require the General Fund to set aside an amount which would be broadly equivalent to the amount the Council would need to pay if it borrowed externally. If any amendments are made to the capital programme the revenue consequences will need to be adjusted accordingly. Executive Members will therefore need to consider the impact of the capital programme as part of the final revenue budget decisions.
- 5.35 The reduction in available capital receipts has placed greater emphasis on the capital programme and its impact on the revenue budget. Following the introduction of the Prudential Borrowing regime local authorities are able to determine the level of their own capital expenditure with regard only to affordability on the revenue account. In practice this represents the amount of borrowing they can afford to finance, and will necessitate taking a medium-term view of revenue income streams and capital investment needs.
- 5.36 To achieve its aim of ensuring that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable, the Local Government Act requires all local authorities to set and keep under review a series of prudential indicators included in the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Capital Programme recommended in this report can be sustained and is within the prudential guidelines. Full Council will need to agree the prudential indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15 in March 2012, alongside its consideration of the specific budget proposals for 2012/13 and the Council's medium-term financial prospects.
- 5.37 Given the known revenue budget gap, there will need to be a careful balance between the level of the Capital Programme in future years against other revenue budget pressures and a thorough review, including the prioritisation of those schemes planned for 2013/14 onwards, will need to be undertaken during next summer.

### *Conclusion*

- 5.38 When the final settlement is known, the Executive can consider the prudent use of revenue balances and appropriate level of Council Tax to support expenditure in line with the overall medium term financial strategy along with further possible reductions to augment the "core package". In doing this, it will be important to manage the budget process effectively so that the inevitable important service pressures can be responded to whilst, as far as possible, front-line services are maintained with minimal disruption and without creating long term problems for the Council.
- 5.39 All comments from the Schools Forum and others on the revenue and capital budget proposals will then be submitted to the Executive on 21 February 2012. This will allow the Executive to determine the final budget package and recommend the appropriate Council Tax level to the Council on 29 February 2012.

### Update on Education Capital Grants

- 5.40 Paragraphs 5.24 to 5.39 reflect the Executive's budget proposals that were published on 8 December. Subsequent to this, the DfE has confirmed Education Capital Grant allocations for 2012/13 and these are different from the assumptions made at the

## Unrestricted

time of publication. An addition grant allocation has also been made for 2011/12 to LAs facing the greatest difficulties in providing sufficient school places. Table 6 below sets out the new unringfenced Education Capital Grants that have recently been confirmed to the Council.

Table 6: Education Capital Grants:

Grant	2011/12 £000	2012/13 £000	Total £000
Basic Need – pupil places	2,212	3,786	5,998
Maintenance	0	1,885	1,885
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>7,883</b>

- 5.41 At this stage it is assumed that the Executive will propose that the full grant amounts are allocated for the intended purpose and therefore will be fully spent on Education related items. If agreed, this would remove the funding gap on the current work programme of schemes. Work is underway to prioritise their use which will be considered by the Executive in February.
- 5.42 In addition to the capital grants allocated to the Council, schools will continue to receive direct capital funding through the Devolved Formula Capital scheme. The DfE has confirmed that funding rates will remain at the significantly reduced levels that came into effect in 2011/12. Each school will receive a lump sum allocation of £4,000 and per pupil funding of £11.25 for primary schools, £16.88 for secondaries, and £33.75 for special schools. The average sized primary school in the borough will receive around £7,000 next year, with the average sized secondary school receiving around £22,000.

## 6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to set the level of the Council Tax by 11 March each year. It is impossible to achieve this without having agreed an affordable revenue budget for the year in question.
- 6.2 The authorisation for incurring capital expenditure by local authorities is contained in the legislation covering the service areas. Controls on capital expenditure are contained in the Local Government Act 2003 and regulations made thereunder.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out within the supporting information.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The Council's final budget proposals will potentially impact on all areas of the community. A detailed consultation process is planned in order to provide individuals and groups with the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals. This will ensure

## Unrestricted

that in making final recommendations, the Executive can be made aware of the views of a broad section of residents and service users. A number of the budget proposals require specific equality impact assessments to be carried out of which draft versions have been prepared. Consultation with equalities groups that are likely to be affected by the proposal is part of the assessment process. In respect of the Capital Programme, where necessary, impact assessments on specific schemes will be undertaken before work commences

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.3 A sum of £1m is currently proposed to meet the costs of unpredictable or unforeseen items that would represent in year budget risks. This is equal to the level of contingency set for 2011/12. The Executive will need to make a judgement on the level of contingency at its meeting in February.
- 6.4 The Borough Treasurer, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer (section 151 officer), must formally certify that the budget is sound. This will involve identifying and assessing the key risk areas in the budget to ensure the robustness of estimates and ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to manage those risks, including maintaining an appropriate level of reserves and contingency. This formalises work that is normally undertaken each year during the budget preparation stages and in monthly monitoring after the budget is agreed. The Borough Treasurer will report his findings in February, when the final budget package is recommended for approval.
- 6.5 The most significant risk facing the Council from the capital programme is its impact on the revenue budget. All new spending on services will need to be funded from new capital receipts or borrowing from internal resources. This effect is compounded by future year's capital programmes. As revenue resources are limited it is clear that a capital programme of this magnitude is not sustainable in the medium term without significant revenue economies. The generation of capital receipts in future years may mitigate the impact on the revenue budget, but as the timing and scale of these receipts is uncertain their impact is unlikely to be significant.
- 6.6 There are also a range of risks that are common to all capital projects which include:
- Tender prices exceeding the budget
  - Planning issues and potential delays
  - Uncertainty of external funding
  - Building delays due to unavailability of materials or inclement weather
  - Availability of staff with appropriate skills to implement schemes
- 6.7 These can be managed through the use of appropriate professional officers and following best practice in project management techniques. The report also identifies the risk associated with the shortfall in maintenance expenditure compared to that identified by the latest condition surveys. With only those highest priorities receiving funding in 2012/13, there will be a further build up in the maintenance backlog and a risk that the deterioration in Council assets will hamper the ability to deliver good services.



## CONSULTATION

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Commission will be consulted on the budget proposals and may also choose to direct specific issues to individual overview and scrutiny panels. Targeted consultation exercises will be undertaken with business rate payers, the Senior Citizens' Forum, the Schools Forum, Parish Councils and voluntary organisations. Comments and views will be sought on both the overall budget package and on the detailed budget proposals. In addition, this report and all the supporting information are publicly available to any individual or group who wish to comment on any proposal included within it. To facilitate this, the full budget package will be placed on the Council's web site at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk). There will also be a dedicated mailbox to collect comments.
- 7.2 The timetable for the approval of the 2012/13 Budget is as follows

Executive agree proposals as basis for consultation	13 December 2011
Consultation period	14 December 2011 - 24 January 2012
Executive considers representations made and recommends budget.	21 February 2012
Council considers Executive budget proposals	29 February 2012

- 7.2 Due to the nature of some of the budget proposals an extended 12 week consultation process is planned for the proposals relating to:
- Youth Service
  - Public Transport / Concessionary Fares
  - Community Transport

As this ends on 6 March and after the Council tax has been set the Council will need to make separate decisions on whether these proposals are to be implemented.

### Background Papers

None.

### Contact for further information

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### Doc. Ref

Doc. Ref NewAlluse\Executive\Schools Forum\54) 090212\LA Budget Proposals for 2012-13.doc

## Commitment Budget 2012/13 to 2014/15

Item	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
<b>Children, Young People and Learning</b>				
Approved Budget	13,026	13,326	13,330	13,220
<u>Suitability surveys</u> Suitability and access surveys are undertaken every three years to update the Asset Management Plan in order that up to date information is available to inform investment decisions on the capital programme.		20	-20	
<u>Schools Music Festival</u> Biennial event which enables pupils from BF Primary schools to participate in a large scale production which links music, dance and art.		-10	10	-10
<u>Wide Area Network</u> Wide Area Network circuit replacement based on wireless technologies.		-6		
<u>Local foster home placements</u> The investments in staffing proposed in the 2012-13 base budget are expected to result in more children being placed in local foster homes instead of expensive independent foster homes. The savings proposed reflect the current looked after children population which is volatile, and therefore subject to change, often at very short notice and which may impact on the level of savings that can be achieved.			-100	-150
<u>Virements</u> Net Inter Departmental Virements (1).	300			
<b>Children, Young People and Learning Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>13,326</b>	<b>13,330</b>	<b>13,220</b>	<b>13,060</b>

(1) These transfers net off to nil in the Council's budget, and most significant virement in CYPL relates to removing the accounting adjustment to reflect income received from Adult Social Care and Health Department during the period that CYPL provided support for Finance, HR, IT and Performance Management.

## Revenue budget: proposed PRESSURES for CYPL Department

Description	2012/13 £'000
<p><b>Children Looked After – costs of care and support</b></p> <p>Based on the current costed schedule of known placements, a pressure has been identified to ensure the fulfilment of statutory duties for children and young people in care. This reflects an increase in the number of children being looked after and requiring care and support from 60 when the budget requirement for 2011/12 was established, to 87.</p>	750
<p><b>Children's Social Care/Social Work Teams</b></p> <p>To meet demand as a result of the increased numbers of looked after children and young people recruitment of extra staff for the Under 11's and Family Placement Teams and Quality Assurance function is proposed. This amounts to 4.6 full time equivalent staff at a cost of £170,000 and as well as meeting the increased demand is expected to result in more children being placed in local foster homes instead of expensive independent foster homes generating net savings in the medium term. Demand for external specialist legal advice to help support care proceedings has also increased as number rise resulting in costs increasing by £65,000.</p>	235
<p><b>Berkshire Adoption Advisory Service (BAAS)</b></p> <p>BAAS is an independent organisation that provides expert adoption advice, training and support for the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities. This includes the recruitment of adoptive families, carrying out the initial home visits and relevant checks and running preparation groups. It will also provide support to birth fathers, mothers and grandparents, thereby meeting the adoption requirements to provide services to those affected by adoption. Adoption generally provides better outcomes for children and is cost effective.</p>	19
<p><b>Life Chances Co-ordinator</b></p> <p>In order to increase the number of local foster carers and adoptive families, a multi agency Life Chances Team will be created to provide better support to looked after children. This team will provide intensive support to children and young people in care in Bracknell-Forest and their foster carers/adoptive families. A 0.6 full time equivalent Co-ordinator is required for effective management and support.</p>	25
<p><b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING TOTAL</b></p>	1,029

## Revenue budget: proposed ECONOMIES for CYPL Department

Description Impact	2012/13 £'000
<p><b>Youth Service</b></p> <p>A range of measures are proposed which are intended to make efficiencies and target resources more to the areas of greatest need. Efficiency savings have been identified in management, administrative support, supplies and services and additional income that total £92,000. This will result in less management, administrative and development support to youth workers with no one on site to attend to the needs of community groups and others renting youth centres.</p> <p>Reductions of £35,000 are proposed in grants to young people to create new opportunities, £17,000 on those targeted to individuals on the provision of positive activities and £5,000 on the support to schools in the delivery of sexual health services. The closure of 3 Youth Centres from Edgbarrow, North Ascot, Whitegrove and Sandhurst will save a further £56,000. Reduced funding increases the risk of anti-social behaviour, reduces the opportunity for young people to showcase their achievements and increases the risk for more young people needing more intensive interventions at a later stage. There will also be reduced support to schools to help reduce teenage pregnancy and improve attitudes to sexual health and behaviour.</p> <p>The closure of youth centres will enable a consequential reduction of one youth worker and associated resources, saving £45,000.</p>	-250
<p><b>Early Years</b></p> <p>A range of measures are proposed to better target the use of resources. The graduate leader programme and bursary support and training will be restricted to the voluntary and non-profit making providers only, with a consequential staffing reduction which supports the programme saving £119,000. This will result in a less qualified workforce providing support and care to young children.</p> <p>Support to the educational development of primary aged pupils will reduce through the advisory teacher post moving from full time to half time together with removal of other resource budgets that support vulnerable children will save £39,000. There will be a consequential reduction in professional advice and support to the Early Years Foundation Stage.</p> <p>The satellite children's centres at Maples (Warfield &amp; Winkfield); The Hollies (Binfield); The Chestnuts (Crowthorne &amp; Little Sandhurst); and The Sycamores (Crown Wood &amp; Harmans Water) will be closed saving £42,000. These areas will in future be supported exclusively through outreach work, and not in dedicated facilities.</p> <p>Deletion of staff that support the 39 parent and toddler groups in the private, voluntary and independent sector will save £38,000. The service will cease and will result in less guidance and advice to parents regarding the quality of available provision.</p>	-238

Unrestricted

<b>Description Impact</b>	<b>2012/13 £'000</b>
<p><b>Connexions</b></p> <p>Connexions is a contracted service that provides information, advice and guidance to young people. From September 2012 the responsibility for the universal services will pass to schools with the Council retaining statutory responsibility for the more vulnerable, including national data returns. The reduction in the value of the contracted services will result in less support being available for vulnerable young people who have a high risk of being Not in Education, Employment of Training (NEET).</p>	<p><b>-150</b></p>
<p><b>Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS)</b></p> <p>TaMHS was a time limited project intended to develop the capacity of schools to work with children who may be experiencing, or are at risk of developing, mental health problems. The project will now cease with the risk that the early intervention and support for children who have mental problems may lose momentum without the direction and support provided by this project.</p>	<p><b>-125</b></p>
<p><b>Efficiencies through better procurement</b></p> <p>The Council has withdrawn as a member of a Pan-Berkshire group (SRG) established to commission and develop post 16 education following the closure of the Learning and Skills Agency with the service now being provided more efficiently in-house, saving £56,000.</p> <p>The contract for the Family Information Service, which provides information on childcare and a wide range of other services for parents and carers of children up to the age of 20 is also now provided in house. This saves £78,000 through more efficient use of staffing and better targeting of outreach to vulnerable families, with a reduction in service promotion.</p>	<p><b>-134</b></p>
<p><b>Review of services to schools</b></p> <p>A review of services for schools funded by the Council has identified a small number of non-statutory functions that should be funded by schools, either through new traded services or in partnership with the Council.</p> <p>Traded services are proposed for areas of the Education Psychology Service related to the assessment of pupils' learning needs and the Education Welfare Service in connection with pupil attendance, behaviour and safeguarding. Each Service will seek to generate £18,000.</p> <p>In addition, funding will in future be sought from the Schools Budget to continue support to schools in Ofsted categories of concern (£40,000) and families experiencing multiple problems through intensive interventions through the Family Intervention Project (£100,000). This project supports families experiencing multiple problems and there is a wide range of intensive interventions to assist children and families to achieve positive outcomes.</p>	<p><b>-176</b></p>

Unrestricted

<b>Description Impact</b>	<b>2012/13 £'000</b>
<p><b>School Improvement Team</b></p> <p>The team of general and specialist advisers implement the Borough's policy for school improvement providing challenge and support to schools as well as bespoke training. There will be a restructure of responsibilities within the Team and cessation of some activities including provision of specialist advice, staff training and intervention in schools causing concern. Overall, there will be a reduction of 3.5 full time equivalent staff. These changes put at risk the ability to generate current levels of income and there will be consequential additional workload for remaining team members in order to meet school and departmental expectations.</p>	<p><b>-184</b></p>
<p><b>Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC)</b></p> <p>AHDS provides short breaks to help disabled children, young people and their families to get the support and chances they need to live ordinary lives. This includes day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for disabled children and young people with parents and families receiving a break from their caring responsibilities. In future there will be a reduction in the number of short breaks for disabled children and therefore support to their families. There is an increased risk of more high need disabled children needing support from the Disabled Children's Team and longer term provision.</p>	<p><b>-80</b></p>
<p><b>Children's Social Care</b></p> <p>A range of measures are proposed in Children's Social Care which is responsible for assessing the help and support needed for children and their families with specialist needs, including Child Protection, Looked After Children, Youth Offending and Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>Reductions of £13,000 can be made in home care support for disabled children, resources used to prevent children and young people coming into care and the purchase of computer equipment for looked after children.</p> <p>The Youth Offending Service will be reshaped with a 0.5 full time equivalent reduction in staffing saving £20,000. This reduction will impact on the ability to manage statutory youth justice orders in line with national standards and will result in less time being available to work with young people at risk of offending.</p> <p>Demand for financial support to young people, who have been in care, as they move to independence has reduced and a saving of £30,000 can be made. The reduction is possible but there is a risk that demand increases due to increased numbers in care and the recent change in the Care Leavers legislation in April 2011 which enables young people to have an assessment up until their 25th birthday</p>	<p><b>-63</b></p>

## Unrestricted

<b>Description Impact</b>	<b>2012/13 £'000</b>
<p><b>Departmental restructure and general efficiencies</b></p> <p>A range of efficiencies have been identified, mainly within the Strategy, Resources and Early Interventions Branch</p> <p>The statutory requirement to implement the Contact Point national children's database has been withdrawn and therefore no further development will now be undertaken on this project, saving £68,000.</p> <p>A 0.7 full time equivalent Accountancy Assistant post will be deleted saving £20,000 with a further £10,000 saving from reduced administrative support in Performance and Governance by a 0.4 full time equivalent. This will result in essential activities performed by these posts absorbed within the remainder of the Teams with a number of lower level tasks delayed or not undertaken.</p> <p>Efficiencies will be made in the recruitment process through limiting use of specialist professional journals and maximising use of on line recruitment facility (Jobs Go Public), saving £30,000. Assuming recruitment activity and appointment success rates remain at the level experienced over the past two years, there will be no adverse impact from this.</p> <p>Further efficiencies on general supplies and services and office costs will also be managed by making spending decisions in future at departmental level rather than by individual team managers, saving £20,000.</p> <p>The funds held to develop new aspects of work such as the Child Poverty Strategy will be deleted, saving £12,000. This can be managed, assuming no new responsibilities arise from the various reviews being undertaken into Children's Social Care, for example Munroe.</p>	<b>-160</b>
<p><b>Pyramid for Children project</b></p> <p>The Pyramid for Children project is a contracted service which screens Year 3 pupils for emotional well-being and provides specific support. The contract will be reconfigured through linking with in-house projects to effect a saving resulting in minimal impact as existing screening will be integrated into the work of Targeted Services team and schools following the completion of the targeted mental health in schools project.</p>	<b>-24</b>
<p><b>Support for Children and Families Team</b></p> <p>The Children and Families Team supports pupils and families who have difficulties in attending school and will be reconfigured as part of a review of Targeted Services which is expected to result in a 0.6 full time equivalent reduction in staffing. There will be a consequential reduction in services to schools, pupils and families resulting in reduced capacity to develop provision and provide services beyond the statutory minimum.</p>	<b>-23</b>
<b>CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING TOTAL</b>	<b>-1,607</b>

## CYPL Proposed Capital Programme

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
<b>Committed</b>			
Additional School Places - Primary	0	700	1,700
	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Unavoidable</b>			
Asbestos (Control of Asbestos) - <i>Non-Schools</i>	5	0	0
	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>			
Improvements & Capitalised Repairs - <i>Non-Schools</i>	5	0	0
	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rolling Programme / Other Desirable</b>			
Larchwood Outdoor Play Surface - <i>Non Schools</i>	30	0	0
	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUEST FOR COUNCIL FUNDING</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>External Funding</b>			
<b>Capital Maintenance / Condition</b>			
Improvements & Capitalised Repairs	2,545	200	200
Fire Safety (Fire Safety Order)	450	330	100
Asbestos (Control of Asbestos) - Schools	25	20	20
Legionella (COSHH)	5	0	0
Disabled Access - Schools	90	90	90
<b>Basic Need (School Places)</b>			
Additional School Places - Brakenhale Expansion	787	0	0
Additional School Places - Edgbarrow Expansion	110	0	0
Additional School Places - Secondary	0	700	1,700
<b>Departmental Bids</b>			
Suitability Improvements	200	200	200
School Kitchen Refurbishments	100	100	100
School Caretakers Houses	25	25	25
Carbon Reduction Measures	80	80	80



Unrestricted

	2012/13 £000	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000
<b>School Bids</b>			
Sandhurst Boilers and Lighting Controls	203	0	0
Ascot Heath Infants Classroom Extension	200	0	0
Easthampstead Park DT Block Roof Replacement	45	0	0
Easthampstead Park Distribution Board Replacements	43	0	0
Easthampstead Park Humanities Block Roof Repl'ment	50	0	0
The Brakenhale Paving replacement	50	0	0
Holly Spring Junior Kitchen Refurbishment	40	0	0
Wood Hill Internal Alterations Phase 2	100	0	0
<b>Other</b>			
Section 106 Contributions - Schemes less than £50k	180	250	250
Section 106 Brakenhale	103	0	0
Section 106 Crown Wood	414	0	0
Section 106 Jennetts Park	68	0	0
Schools Devolved Formula Capital (ex VA Schools)	tbc	tbc	tbc
Aiming High	tbc	tbc	tbc
PVI Funding - School Foundation Years	tbc	tbc	tbc
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL FUNDING</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>2,765</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>5,953</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>4,465</b>

## Capital Programme 2012/13 – Children, Young People and Learning

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Additional School Places - Secondary</b>	<b>897</b>
This is the last of the funding required to complete the creation of additional teaching accommodation at Brakenhale (£787k) and Edgbarrow (£110k). The final secondary S106 contribution of £103k from The Parks development will be used to reduce the Council's costs to create additional capacity at Brakenhale. This could be met from DFE Basic Need grant if this is received.	
<b>Fire Safety (Fire Safety Order)</b>	<b>450</b>
The fire risk remedial works has involved improving signage and emergency lighting, the installation of new and the upgrading of fire systems and improved compartmentation in 5 schools. This work is in addition to the works previously identified on the last round of fire risk assessments which did not take into account the need for fire compartmentation e.g. above suspended ceilings. The schemes to be undertaken in 2012/13 are as follows : Brakenhale £150k (from 2010 Fire Safety Audit) Crown Wood £40k (from 2009 Fire Safety Audit) Kennel Lane £50k (from Electrical Test Report 2011) Fire Risk Assessments – minor works various schemes £100k Automatic Fire alarm Monitoring (20 different schools) £20k Compliance works and further fire safety audits £100k	
<b>Asbestos (Control of Asbestos) – Schools</b>	<b>25</b>
Works to prevent exposure to asbestos containing materials under the Asbestos Management plans put in place to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations. Works include encapsulation or removal where asbestos is damaged.	
<b>Asbestos (Control of Asbestos) – Non Schools</b>	<b>5</b>
Works to prevent exposure to asbestos containing materials under the Asbestos Management plans put in place to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations. Works include encapsulation or removal where asbestos is damaged.	
<b>Legionella (COSHH)</b>	<b>5</b>
A budget for the prevention or control of legionella in accordance with the HSE's Approved Code of Practice under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. This budget is to provide for new/updated risk assessments and schemes of prevention to keep water systems (tanks and pipework) safe and free from harmful bacteria.	

Unrestricted

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Disabled Access - Schools</b>	<b>90</b>
A budget to implement access works to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. There is £700k of priority 1 (urgent) access works in schools identified in the access audits in the CYPL Asset Management Plan. In addition the Council is obliged to pay for access works for individual children & young people and staff. Schools are unique in that Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the DDA apply in respect of pupils, staff and members of the public who have use of the buildings. The approach taken is risk based to minimise the cost in any one year by dealing with specific needs of individuals first rather than a blanket approach of implementing all access works at all properties.	
<b>Improvements &amp; Capitalised Repairs – Non Schools</b>	<b>5</b>
This is the estimated total value of the Priority 1 (urgent) items from the condition surveys. It will be for Corporate Services to set an appropriate budget to meet this need, is consistent with H&S, and the operation of services (no closures). This includes 6 individual areas of concern where heat gain is having a direct impact on the quality of the service.	
<b>Improvements &amp; Capitalised Repairs - Schools</b>	<b>2,545</b>
This is the estimated total value of the Priority 1 (urgent) items from the condition surveys. It will be for Corporate Services to set an appropriate budget to meet this need taking into account the expectation that schools will pay for some (on average 7%) of the planned maintenance works using their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) Funding. This includes 48 individual areas of concern where heat gain is having a direct impact on learning.	
<b>Suitability Improvements</b>	<b>200</b>
To address the items from the suitability surveys in the CYPL Asset Management Plan. There are 5 Priority 1 items and they are all in schools, including undersized classrooms and the shortage of specialist areas. The proposed budget would be sufficient to address all of these over a five year programme.	
<b>Larchwood Outdoor Play Surface – Non Schools</b>	<b>30</b>
The replacement of the current surface of bark with a safe and durable play surface in Larchwood's rear garden that will also be accessible to all children with mobility problems and wheelchair users.  The bark is an health and safety issue with children putting objects in their mouths, and foxes and cats accessing the site.	
<b>School Kitchen Refurbishments</b>	<b>100</b>
Refurbishment of two of the 30 school meal kitchens, which have intensive use and require periodic capital investment to keep them operating in line with statutory compliance issues such as gas safety and environmental health. The Highest priorities are at Ascot Heath and Meadow Vale.	

Unrestricted

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>School Caretakers Houses</b>	<b>25</b>
A budget to bring school caretakers houses up to the same national "Decent Homes" standard as for Council housing. Works include kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems. Surveys indicate £220k of need, and the proposed budget would enable all this work to be completed over five years.	
<b>Carbon Reduction Measures</b>	<b>80</b>
Energy works in schools with a payback period of under 5 years to reduce carbon emissions and the "carbon tax" under the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment.	
<b>Sandhurst Boilers and Lighting Controls</b>	<b>203</b>
This is a bid from the school to replace old oil-fired boilers with new energy efficient boilers. This work will also address zoning and heating controls and make savings especially during times of lettings. The school also want to install light sensor/microwave controls which would save on energy costs. The school will contribute £22k for a total project cost of £225k.	
<b>Ascot Heath Infants Classroom Extension</b>	<b>200</b>
A bid from the school to relocate the class currently accommodated in open plan shared space into a purpose built classroom. This involves an extension to the school's main building. The works also include creation of a group withdrawal space / PPA room, and a new server/hub room. EC Harris have confirmed the feasibility & cost of this project.	
<b>Easthampstead Park DT Block Roof Replacement</b>	<b>45</b>
A bid from the school to replace the roof on the Design Technology block which currently has roof leaks and is ranked as 1C on the latest condition survey. A new roof would make the building watertight and protect the specialist equipment contained in this specific curriculum area. The school will contribute £5k for a total project cost of £50k.	
<b>Easthampstead Park Distribution Board Replacements</b>	<b>43</b>
A bid from the school to address electrical distribution boards identified as non-compliant to current regulations and parts are obsolete and/or difficult to replace. The latest condition survey ranks this work as 1B. The school have been advised that although they cannot be condemned, they will be placed into a category under an advisory which could have insurance implications. The school will contribute £4.8k for a total project cost of £48k.	
<b>Easthampstead Park Humanities Block Roof Replacement</b>	<b>50</b>
A bid from the school to replace the Humanities/Canteen block roof which leaks and is ranked as 1C on the latest condition survey. A new roof would make the building watertight and protect the specialist equipment contained in this area. The school will contribute £5.5k for a total project cost of £55k.	

Unrestricted

	<b>£'000</b>
<b>The Brakenhale Paving Replacement</b>	<b>50</b>
A bid from the school to replace the broken paving and repair the failed tarmac to footpaths and external areas to reduce the number of accidents from trips and slips that have occurred. The paving works are ranked as a 2D on the latest condition survey, however this work is being given a high priority by the school because of the health & safety risks of not addressing this need. The school will contribute £5k for a total project cost of £55k.	
<b>Holly Spring Junior Kitchen Refurbishment</b>	<b>40</b>
A bid from the school to refurbish/modernise the school meals kitchen, to include the upgrade of ventilation and heating. N.B. This kitchen is currently ranked 11 <sup>th</sup> out of 30 kitchens in order of priority on the Council's building surveys. School would contribute £20k for a total project cost of £60k.	
<b>Wooden Hill Internal Alterations Phase 2</b>	<b>100</b>
A bid from the school to strengthen the Foundation Stage Provision by undertaking Phase 2 of a project to upgrade and refurbish the existing Foundation and Key Stage 1 classrooms. School would be required to contribute £20k for a total project cost of £120k	