

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
7 OCTOBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPITAL
BUDGETS 2009/10**

BY: DIRECTORS OF EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the projects and patterns of expenditure projected for Capital Budgets within Educational and Community Services for 2009/10.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (14) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the consideration of Capital and Revenue Budgets and long term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- a) **notes and scrutinises the current position regarding the Educational and Community Services Capital Programme;**
- b) **approves implementation of the capital projects as identified in Paragraph 4.4.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Special Meeting of Council on 12 February 2009, Committee approved the Capital Plan for 2009/10 and agreed that Service Committee approval was required prior to individual capital projects being implemented. In urgent cases, approval can be sought from the Committee Chairman and department Director.
- 3.2 The capital budgets covered in this report are those contained within the Educational Services and Community Services Capital Plan (**Appendix 1**).

4. BUDGET DETAIL

- 4.1 The total approved Capital budget for Educational and Community Services for the period 2009 to 2010 is as follows:-

	09/10 £000
Land & Buildings	7210
Leisure & healthy Living	153
Totals	7363

The list of individual projects proposed within the headings is detailed in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.2 The total planned expenditure for 2009/10 is £7.363 million. Expenditure to 31 August 2009 is currently £602,000. The bulk of expenditure is anticipated to be made over the last quarter. In addition a review of planned expenditure will shortly be undertaken when account will be taken of predicted savings and alterations to the programming of projects.
- 4.3 The major projects that have approval and are either complete or being progressed are listed below:-
- ◇ Milne's Learning Centre: Phase 2
 - ◇ Locality Team Bases: Elgin Academy, Elgin High, Lossiemouth and Milne's High.
 - ◇ Elgin Town Hall: Redevelopment of Supper Room.
 - ◇ Kitchen Upgrades.
 - ◇ Alves Primary Heating Upgrade.
 - ◇ Forres Academy and Lossiemouth High Heating Controls.
 - ◇ Keith Grammar Heating Upgrade.
 - ◇ Buckie High Performance Space, Classrooms and Changing Pavilion
 - ◇ Provision of fences and refurbishment of Pinefield Changing Pavilion
- 4.4 Projects within the Plan which require separate approval and which have reached an appropriate stage of development to seek approval are listed below.

Title	Category	Net Cost £000
Buckie High: Locality Team Base	Land & Buildings	130
Legionella works at various schools	Land & Buildings	30

- 4.5 Due to current levels of competition in the construction market significant savings are anticipated to be achieved against budgeted costs for a number of major projects. Whilst it will be necessary to wait until these projects are complete to clarify actual savings the savings across Milne's High (phases 1 & 2) and Buckie High Performance Space, Classrooms and Changing Pavilion projects are anticipated to be in excess of £500,000.

4.6 An update on a number of other projects is detailed below:

Elgin South West: Sports and Arts Provision

This project is for the provision of a regional sports facility and performance space adjacent to Elgin High School. The project involves partnership with Moray College who would undertake education and training within the new facilities. The initial design for the project is complete and has involved use of information gathered during the PPP community consultation phase together with thorough discussions with the school and college. Work is now underway on developing a detailed design together with more accurate cost estimates.

Considerable work has been undertaken on developing projections for usage and revenue estimates. This information will be critical for future funding bids and partnership arrangements.

The project has successfully negotiated Stage 1 of the grant process for European Structural Funds. The deadline for Stage 2 is October 9 . A number of questions have been raised at Stage 1 particularly in connection with the amount of time the new facility would be used by the school and community as opposed to training and business support. As school and community use were the original focus of the project careful consideration will have to be given to further submissions. In addition, within the Scottish Government there is now concern as to the eligibility of refurbishment projects for Further and Higher Education projects in rural areas. This issue will need to be resolved prior to a submission being made.

In the meantime it is proposed to set up a Project Board comprising representatives of the school, college and Council to guide the project through its next phases and to assist in communicating information to interested groups.

The overall cost of this project is likely to be in the region of £7m - £8m and will be dependant upon maximising external funding. Members will be regularly updated on progress with this project.

Co Located Child Protection Unit

The programme for this project has been clarified. Construction is planned to begin in April 2010 with completion during January 2011. The bulk of the Councils contribution will therefore need to be carried forward.

Forres & Lossiemouth Synthetic Turf Pitches

Work to progress these projects is underway including surveys to identify preferred locations. A realistic programme is for construction to take place during the Summer 2010. This means there will be minimal spend this financial year with the majority of the budget being required for 2010.

Pinefield Pitches

Members will no doubt be aware that both football fences have been erected and the pitches are operating satisfactorily. Work has begun on refurbishing the community pavilion and this is expected to be completed by 2nd week of October.

Libraries Integration Programme

The libraries integration programming is progressing with the main elements and timeframes as detailed below:

Integration of Portknockie Library was completed in August.

Transfer of Findochty Library due at end of October.

Burghead plans finalised with on site scheduled for late November for mid January completion and transfer completed by end of January.

Lossiemouth plans for learning centre at final stage due for late November start and late January completion.

Hopeman plans nearing completion with work due in Spring of 2010.

Roths plans finalised for October start on toilet provision, nursery provision December to January and library provision by mid March.

Dufftown plans completed for December, January works.

Progression of Dufftown and Roths subject to European approval of revised proposals, revised grant and meeting of budgetary provision.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

- (i) This report supports local priorities 3 (Young People) and 4 (Young People and Adult Learners) through the provision of modern, well maintained and suitable facilities.
- (ii) This report supports Action Areas 3 (Equally Well) and 17 (Sports, Arts and Leisure Development) for the Service Improvement Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy implications arising directly from this report. The Council has a legal obligation to provide access to services under the Disability Discrimination Act.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The financial implications arising from this report are as detailed in the body of this report. Projections for revenue costs associated with the major projects at Milne's High, Buckie High and Elgin High are being developed and will be reported to future meetings of this Committee.

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(d) Consultations

Consultations have been undertaken with Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant; Libraries and Museums Manager; Property Services Manager; Senior Estates Surveyor; Gordon Sinclair, Service Manager (Community Services); Reni Milburn, Principal Development Officer; and Educational Services SMT. Where comments have been received, these have been included within the report.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 That Committee is asked to note and scrutinise the report and consider approval of two further projects designed to improve the condition and suitability of school premises.

Author of Report: Nick Goodchild, Educational Resources Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/
7 October 2009/Educational Services Capital Budgets 2009-10