

**REPORT TO:** EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 2007  
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 2007

**REPORT ON:** NEW EARLY YEARS, CHILDCARE & PLAY CAPITAL FUND 2007-08

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

**REPORT NO:** 441- 2007

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks to inform the Committee of the additional capital allocation from The Early Years, Childcare & Play Fund which has been established by the Scottish Executive for 2007-08. It also seeks approval of the projects recommended for funding from this allocation and to seek approval to proceed with the procurement of the works relating to the projects.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Education Committee is requested to:

- a) Approve the projects recommended by the Director of Education.
- b) Authorise the City Architectural Services Officer to negotiate (Appendix 1) offers, obtain tenders or partnership agreements for the capital works detailed in Appendix 1, and
- c) Authorise the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) in conjunction with the Director of Education to accept negotiated offers, tenders or partnership agreements as recommended by the City Architectural Services Officer for the works to be undertaken by Dundee Contract Services and other contractors.
- d) Instruct the Director of Education to invite funding bids from the voluntary and community sectors in the terms of the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive.

and

- e) Recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the projects detailed in Appendix 1 totalling £177,000 be included in the Capital Plan 2007/08.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The proposed expenditure of £221,000 (£177,000 Capital and £44,000 Revenue) in respect of the projects identified in Appendix 1, will be met from the New Early Years, Childcare and Play Fund 2007-08.

## **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

4.1 There are no sustainability policy issues.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The works will improve accessibility of Early Years & Childcare facilities in line with the Education Department's Accessibility Strategy.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The Scottish Executive have announced a New Early Years, Childcare & Play Capital Fund for the current financial year from which the specific allocation to Dundee City Council is £221,000 of which Ministers have set a target of 20% to be used in the voluntary & community sector. The fund must be spent this financial year i.e. by the end of March 2008.

- 6.2 The Executive has set five priorities for the use of this funding as follows:

- i refurbishing or upgrading Early Years facilities to create a better environment for staff and children, and to develop closer links with parents.
- ii creating, extending or refurbishing early years facilities to deliver school or more integrated services.
- iii improving facilities for out of school care.
- iv creating, refurbishing or upgrading play spaces, equipment and facilities for children, both within early years centres and in the wider community.
- v adaptations and equipment to improve access to play, early years services and out of school care for children with additional support needs.

- 6.3 The items outlined in Appendix 1 will:

- i improve the provision of good quality play space at Woodlea Children's Centre and Law Nursery School. It will improve the light at Woodlea and the opportunity to move safely between play spaces at Law, both areas identified by external inspection as being in need of attention. It will also enhance the space where parents meet for workshops and social activities.
- ii improve and redecorate entrance, internal corridors and hall areas at Frances Wright Pre School Centre.
- iii provide outside storage for play equipment at Wallacetown Nursery School
- iv improve quality of permanent fixed out door play equipment at Whitfield Early Years Centre, Jessie Porter Nursery School and Longhaugh Nursery School.
- v ensure that all nursery schools in Dundee City meet with DDA Public Access requirements. This will enable a wider group of the community access to the nursery schools within their areas.
- vi enable children in Out of School Clubs, Pre School Playgroups and community groups access to play equipment to improve the range of outdoor and indoor physical play.

vii enable the Voluntary and Community sector to identify capital work that will enhance their services and/or improve access for children with additional support needs.

6.4 The proposed expenditure identified to be funded from this new allocation is stated in Appendix 1. To ensure any works are carried out timeously it is envisaged that Dundee Contract Services will carry out a portion of these works and it is considered beneficial that the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) be empowered to accept the most favourable offers, tenders or partnership agreements for all the works.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

Anne Wilson  
Director of Education

16 August 2007

AW/DC

## Appendix 1

### Nursery School and Early Years

#### Additional Funding 07/08

**£221,000**

1.	Woodlea Children's Centre To refurbish and improve internal areas including play rooms, parents' room and Parents' workshop room, including up grading of lighting.	40,000
2.	Law Nursery School Create access through all playrooms Create parents' areas. Improve children's toilet areas.	20,000
3.	Frances Wright Pre-School Centre To refurbish and improve internal corridor and hall areas.	13,400
4.	Wallacetown Nursery School External toy store	10,000
5.	Outdoor permanent fixed play facilities To improve outdoor fixed play equipment at Whitfield Early Years Centre, Menzieshill, Jessie Porter and Longhaugh Nursery Schools.	6,600
6.	Law Nursery Overlay playground surface	10,000
7.	Jessie Porter Public Access DDA	10,000
8.	Law Nursery Public Access DDA	10,000
9.	Menzieshill Nursery Public Access DDA	10,000
10.	Dens Road PS (Nursery Class) Public Access DDA	20,000
11.	Woodlea Children's Centre Public Access DDA	12,000
12.	Physical Play Resources Physical play equipment for use by Out of School Clubs and Pre School Playgroups etc	15,000
	Capital Expenditure	<hr/> 177,000
13.	Voluntary & Community Sector (Revenue Expenditure)	<hr/> 44,000
		<hr/> <b>£221,000</b> <hr/>