

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>		
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>16 June 2005</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Whitnash Nursery School and Sure Start, Leamington - Capital Project</b>		
<b>Summary</b>	This report outlines the capital proposal for the development at Whitnash Nursery School in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington in order to develop into a Children's Centre. This report was considered by the Sure Start Policy Panel at their meeting on 14 April 2005.		
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Elizabeth Featherstone  Assistant County  Education Officer  (Community)  Tel: 01926 412151  elizabethfeatherstone@warwickshire.gov.uk </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Ann Mawdsley  Senior Committee  Administrator  Tel: 01926 418079  annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk </td> </tr> </table>	Elizabeth Featherstone Assistant County Education Officer (Community) Tel: 01926 412151 elizabethfeatherstone@warwickshire.gov.uk	Ann Mawdsley Senior Committee Administrator Tel: 01926 418079 annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk
Elizabeth Featherstone Assistant County Education Officer (Community) Tel: 01926 412151 elizabethfeatherstone@warwickshire.gov.uk	Ann Mawdsley Senior Committee Administrator Tel: 01926 418079 annmawdsley@warwickshire.gov.uk		
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	Yes.		
<b>Background papers</b>	Developing a Strategy for Children's Centres across Warwickshire 16.12.04  Children's Centre Capital Projects 6.10.04 and 16.12.04		

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sure Start Policy Panel
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Mota Singh - Leamington Brunswick
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Mick Jones - Young People, Lifelong Learning & Families
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/> .....
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Freeth - agreed
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rennie – comments incorporated

- |                          |                                     |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Chief Officers     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marion Davis, Director of Social Care and Health            |
| District Councils        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Health Authority         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Police                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....   |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sally Lightfoot, Education<br>Ian Dawson, Property Services |

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- |  |                          |       |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Further consideration by<br>this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To Council                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To Cabinet                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To an O & S Committee                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| To an Area Committee                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |
| Further Consultation                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | ..... |

**Cabinet - 16 June 2005.**

**Whitnash Nursery School and Sure Start, Leamington -  
Capital Project**

**Report of the Chair - Sure Start Policy Panel**

**Recommendation of the Sure Start Policy Panel:**

That the Cabinet endorse the outline proposals for capital build on the Whitnash Nursery School site in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington, and agree that the 2005/06 capital programme be increased by £190,500 with the funding to be met by grant of £125,500 and £65,000 from Whitnash Nursery.

**1. Views of the Sure Start Policy Panel**

The Panel considered the report of the County Education Officer outlining the capital proposal for the development at Whitnash Nursery School in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington in order to develop into a Children's Centre.

Elizabeth Featherstone reported that confirmation had been received that Warwickshire would receive an allocation of £6.7 million for 2006-2008 from DfES to spend on its programme to develop Children's Centres throughout the county. It was noted that Warwickshire would be required to develop 20 Children's Centres and that further reports would be brought to the Panel.

During the ensuing discussion the following issues were raised:

1. The project at Whitnash Nursery School was a good example of partnership working to develop a resource for the local community offering a broad range of services.
2. The timescale for the project was tight, but planning was already in place.
3. There was currently a variance between the Sure Start local programme and the Children's Centre programme and the funding available from 2006 would make this more equitable.
4. There was a need to extend the reach of centres like the Abbey Neighbourhood Nursery as the Children's Centres would, in the future, be responsible for all children under the age of four in the ward.

The Panel endorsed the outline proposals for capital build on the Whitnash Nursery School site in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington and recommend to Cabinet that the 2005/06 capital programme be increased by £190,500.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 In December 2004, the Sure Start Unit announced changes to funding for Sure Start Local Programmes. This announcement had most impact on the later wave Sure Starts. Sure Start, Leamington is a sixth wave Sure Start. The impact of the funding changes was that the Authority had to ensure Sure Start, Leamington was included in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of children's centre developments (2004/06) as future revenue funding post March 2006 was to come through the children's centre revenue funding rather than direct to the Sure Start Local Programme.
- 2.2 Since Sure Start, Leamington is now included in Phase 1 (2004/06) children's centre development; all capital developments related to this children's centre are required to be completed by March 2006 otherwise there could be a risk of financial penalties imposed on funding given. The reason for bringing forward the project into phase 1 is to enable the Authority to claim revenue expenditure for Sure Start, Leamington from April 2006. This capital expenditure is in addition to the sum already agreed for children's centres from 2005/06 and would need to be added to the capital programme 2005/06.

## **3. Capital build**

- 3.1 The plan on the Whitnash Nursery site in partnership with Sure Start, Leamington is to build an extension to the existing temporary building that joins it to the nursery school. This additional accommodation would provide a meeting space for Parents' groups, Stay and Play opportunities, Adult Education opportunities, Jobcentre plus activity and a small crèche to support these activities. By combining their capital resources Whitnash Nursery School and Sure Start, Leamington will be able to develop a resource for the local community that neither could afford by themselves. Sure Start is expecting to contribute £125,000. Whitnash Nursery School will contribute an additional £65,500 making a total of £190,500. Grant will be claimed by the County Council through the existing arrangements for claiming children's centres capital grant, which are set up on a web-based system in the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Team. The process was reported to the Sure Start Policy Panel on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004.
- 3.2 Plans have been commissioned by Sure Start and planning permission granted. The project has been costed above the current resource available. We await confirmation that by adjusting specification this build can be achieved within budget.

## **4. VAT and clawback**

- 4.1 Since the Sure Start Policy panel meeting, we have received some further advice from Government Office West Midlands (GOWM). Although Sure Start, Leamington has been developing their own Capital strategy it has now emerged that the capital monies available (£1 million) to build the Sure Start Leamington facilities could come directly to the Local Authority if both NCH and the Local Authority agree to this. If given Cabinet approval for this money to come into the Local Authority and into the Capital Programme, the Sure Start Capital projects would not be liable for VAT saving a significant sum of money that could be further invested in the Sure Start builds planned. Under these circumstances we would not require a 30 year lease to be set up as would have been necessary under previous arrangements.
- 4.2 Clawback responsibility would rest with the Local Authority in the event that a building funded for Children's Centre use was no longer used for Children's Centre services.

## **5. Next steps**

Property Services Department would view Early Years as the client for this development. Property Services have agreed they could (subject to approval) in this instance leave the current design team under the direction of the NCH Project Manager and the existing Architect and would exercise their role as Landlord by approving designs, quality visits to the site, etc. The capital expenditure available to NCH is via government grant for the Leamington Sure Start project. Any variation in expenditure would be accommodated in the overall Leamington Sure Start capital programme. NCH has to manage the overall Leamington Sure Start project within existing capital and a further report would be brought if there were any significant increase in costs on the Whitnash project.

## **6. Conclusion**

This is a partnership capital development that neither party can achieve by themselves. However, bringing two funding streams together has raised some complex issues. They have now been resolved and the development as described above, if approved, could proceed. The project must be completed by March 2006.

CLLR DOT WEBSTER  
Chair - Sure Start Policy Panel

Shire Hall  
Warwick

26 April 2005