

**Proposed Decision to be taken under the Council's
Urgency Procedure by the
Deputy Leader (Finance and Property)
on 24 October 2018**

**Addition of Adaptation of Sydenham Children Centre
Scheme to the 2018/19 Capital Programme**

Recommendation

That the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) gives approval to add the adaptation of Sydenham Children Centre scheme to Warwickshire County Council's 2018/19 capital programme. The total scheme estimate is £85,000 all of which is fully funded from revenue contributions.

(Funding is from the early achievement of savings on the Children Centres).

1. Key Issues

1.1. On 15 May 2018 Council reconfirmed the delegated power to the Leader, or body nominated by them, to approve the addition to the capital programme of projects costing less than £2.0 million, which are fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or from revenue. The Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) is that nominated body.

2. Proposal

2.1. This report proposes that £85,000 be approved for the adaptation of Sydenham Children Centre to enable works to commence on 29th October 2018 that will ensure the building is fit for purpose for nursery provision. This in turn will ensure that the Purple Playhouse Nursery are able to move into the premises in January 2019 and offer an expanded nursery provision to an area that has sufficiency issues in terms of early years places. Pursuant to Cabinet decisions taken on 9th November 2017-Children Centre services ceased from the site at the end of July.

2.2. In addition to delay in the provision of places the other risks associated relate to clawback. The original DFE grant for Sydenham was £359,454 and a significant liability remains in relation to the building should it remain vacant.

2.3. Contractors have been identified and funding identified from early achievement of savings in relation to Children Centres. There is therefore a budget available to support the recommendation.

3. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1. Once approval has been obtained the contractor (via Property Services) will be informed to commence works on 29th October 2018. This will enable completion by mid-December. The nursery will then move into the building over December (including the holidays) to enable provision to commence at the start of term in January 2019. The timescales envisaged will ensure that there is minimum disruption to the nursery and the adjoining school.

Background Papers –

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