

**14 October 2013****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****CLAYFIELDS HOUSE – ADDITIONAL SCHEME TO THE CAPITAL  
PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for an additional scheme to the capital programme in respect of capital projects at Clayfields House.

**Information and Advice**

2. Clayfields House is a secure children's home for children and young people with a national remit. There are 18 beds, 14 of which are contracted to the Youth Justice Board for young people on remand or serving sentences and four of which are purchased by local authorities for the most vulnerable young people who need to be secured for their own safety.
3. As a trader, Clayfields House holds reserves generated from in-year surpluses for the purpose of maintaining and improving the site, and covering against in-year deficits. Due to previous successful bids for external funding of capital works, and above target income generation from sale of beds, the reserves have not been utilised in recent years, resulting in the current balance of £1.059 million.
4. The latest full Ofsted inspection of the home (25 June 2013) recommended that Clayfields House *'ensure children are provided with appropriate education in the home particularly with regards to improving the vocational offer to ensure all young people can prepare for and experience the world of work and develop practical skills to improve their life chances when they leave'*. It is proposed that a vocational workshop is built and equipped which will provide the opportunity to do this. Ofsted inspectors have consistently pointed out inadequacies in the visitor experience at Clayfields House. The main reasons for this stem from the fact that visitors (e.g. residents' families) mix with visiting professionals, contractors and Clayfields House staff all in one small area. Privacy is therefore impossible and there is the ever-present risk of a breach of confidentiality. The changes to the reception area will address this and provide appropriate waiting and meeting facilities.
5. The external capital funding secured in the past for such works is no longer available. The number of secure homes for young people is set to reduce nationally and Clayfields

House needs to ensure that it is in the best possible shape to meet the challenges of the future.

6. The proposals for the planned works have been made in consultation with the Property Group. The proposals do not prejudice or duplicate any future planned works for the property and there are no current proposals for the property to be vacated in the immediate future.
7. As well as meeting the requirements of Ofsted, the vocational training facilities may be used to secure additional income through partnerships with local schools and colleges.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. The requirements cannot be met within existing buildings on the site.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. The works are necessary in order to meet Ofsted requirements and ensure the home is financially viable in the future.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The estimated costs of the projects are as follows:
  - construction of new reception block - £0.5 million
  - construction and fit-out of Vocational Training Workshop - £0.3 million.
12. The costs would be met from the Clayfields Reserve (current balance £1.059 million).
13. The use of reserves has already been agreed through the appropriate departmental mechanism.
14. The additional income generation from the new facilities is being looked at as part of the plans to address future financial pressures on the Council, and if appropriate an income target will be set for the home.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

15. Most of the young people at Clayfields House have broken the law. The rehabilitation received at Clayfields House, which will be enhanced by the proposals outlined in this paper, aims to ensure that their life chances are improved and they do not reoffend.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That an additional scheme to the capital programme in respect of capital projects at Clayfields House, as set out in the report, be approved.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LM 04/10/13)**

16. Finance and Property Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial Comments (GB 02/09/13)**

17. The financial implications are stated in the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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