



Report of the Cabinet Member for Community (Support)

Cabinet - 18 May 2023

Capital Improvement of Early Help Hubs in Child & Family Services

Purpose:	To approve the Capital improvement and development scheme for existing Early Help Hubs in Child & Family Services in Swansea Council and to comply with Financial Procedure Rule 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) to commit and authorise a scheme to the Capital Programme.
Policy Framework:	Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 Financial Procedure Rule No. 7
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Capital Improvement and Development Scheme together with the financial implications are approved and included in the Capital Programme for 2023/24.
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Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Caritas Adere
Access to Services:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Early Help Hubs (EHH) are designed to ensure that children and families in Swansea have access to the right support at the right time from the right person regardless of age and location. We have designed the Early Help Hubs based on demand and 'what matters' to families.

- 1.2. The Early Help Hubs are the main point of contact for partner organisations seeking advice and support where they have worries about the wellbeing of children, young people, and their families.
- 1.3. The Hubs have multi-agency partnership links ensuring the correct support for the family is accessed at the right time.
- 1.4. Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 imposes duties on local authorities, health boards and Welsh Ministers to promote the well-being of those who need care and support, or carers who need support.
- 1.5. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 places a statutory duty on each local authority to act to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It ensures that public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

2. Use Capital Funding

- 2.1 Working with staff and communities who use the Early Help Hubs we have identified the need to implement essential maintenance and improvement works to ensure children, young people and families have a safe, secure, accessible and friendly environment.
- 2.2 The funding will be used for internal and external modifications as identified by the hub managers and the Corporate Building Services.

3. Summary of Proposed Works to be added to Capital Programme

- 3.1. A full financial implications summary and detail for the total capital scheme is outlined in the table below:

	TOTAL 23/24	TOTAL 24/25
General adaptations and improvements across all 5 EHH	£350,000	£150,000
TOTALS	£350,000	£150,000

- 3.2 Total Capital Investment for the Scheme 500K, provision was made for this in 2021/22 which will be drawn from Capital reserves and added to the Capital Programme for 2023/24 onwards.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.2 In order to comply with the relevant regulations, an IIA screening has been completed, which highlights that at this a full report is not needed. As the scheme progresses engagement with communities, families and children and young people will be ongoing. Each of the 5 hubs will be subject to their own IIA process

4.3 The IIA process takes into account the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which the Council has embedded into the Authority’s Policy Framework. UNCRC is relevant as this develops further and will be fully considered within a full IIA report.

4.4 The full IIA reporting process will also provide evidence that the initiative complies with Welsh Language Standards: specifically, that we have considered how to maximise any benefits and minimise any adverse effects on:

- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 It is proposed that the scheme outlined in section 3 is added to the Council’s Capital Programme.

- 5.2 In 21/22 the Directorate received significant additional funding late in the financial year to cover costs we have already borne out of core budgets.
- 5.3 At that point we assessed the situation and the specific guidance in relation to children as specified in the Social Care Recovery Grant to understand how we can maximise this funding to meet the needs as outlined above in a different way into the future via a Capital Improvement and Capital Investment Programme over the next 3 to 5 years.
- 5.4 We have made a transfer from revenue to capital for a **Capital Investment Programme**, specifically for social care and to be developed in conjunction with any future Regional Capital Programme.
- 5.5 Revenue budgets are in place to ensure running costs of these buildings are able to be met.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council will need to ensure that all necessary planning consents are obtained.
- 6.2 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with its Contract Procedure Rules and any relevant procurement legislation when procuring any of the works and related contracts referred to above.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - IIA Screening