

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
28 May 2004

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FORWARD PLAN REF:

NAME OF WARD(S)
ALL

REPORT TITLE: SOCIAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME
2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 - SCHEME APPROVAL

For: Approval

Above Below
Confidential Line

FP REF: SS--03/04-15

1. SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for Schemes to be funded from the 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-7 Capital Budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree the 2004-05 and outline 2005-06 and 2006-7 schemes included in the Social Services Capital Programme (Appendix One.)
- 2.2 To note that the Draft Programme contains contingency sums which will be held against requirements likely to arise later in the year. A further report will be submitted to Executive to gain approval for this expenditure.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council agreed the Capital programme for 2004-05 on 1 March 2004. The provisional allocation for 2004-5 was £1.77M but £1M of this was subject to further justification and approval by Capital Board. The Capital Board approved the Social Services Capital Strategy and outline schemes on 23 April 2004.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. Social Services makes extensive use of property professionals within the Council's Core Property Unit who are in the process of recruiting to a dedicated post for Social Services.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - None

6. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The Capital Programme supports the Borough's diversity strategy and helps ensure buildings are designed around the diverse needs of users and meet legal

requirements (such as the Disability Discrimination Act) and National Care Standards.

7 DETAIL

7.1 Social Services Capital Strategy aims to:

- Develop and modernise day services to promote independence and social inclusion of service users.
- Produce residential services, which meet national care standards.
- Enhance our ability to work in Partnership and provide joined up service solutions.
- Strengthen performance management, reduce risk and provide staff with the tools to do the job, and
 - Ensure Buildings are designed around users needs, are fit for purpose and contribute to the provision of high quality services.
 - Ensure that the Health and Safety of staff and users of our buildings is met and that all our buildings are assessable and comply with Disability Discrimination Act and other legal requirements and standards.

Community Care's strategy is to provide integrated assessment and care management services with health partners wherever possible.

7.2 Social Services was provisionally allocated £1.77M of Capital Expenditure in 2004-5. £1,000,000 of this was subject to further justification and approval by Capital Board.

7.3 A draft Capital Programme for the year has been drawn up (Appendix One). The proposed works are in line with Social Services Strategy. A number of minor works and dilapidations are planned which will keep existing operational buildings open including Strathcona and Stonebridge day centres, and Crawford Avenue and Clement Close Children's homes. Works associated with office moves will help relocate Children's teams and make better use of space. Further IT development is also planned. Works are planned to relocate or improve day services. The department is working with Education, Arts and Libraries and other partners to develop family resource and Children's centres in line with National government requirements

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Capital Board Report 22 April 2004

Anyone wishing to obtain further information on this report should contact:

Charles Hampshire Head of Finance, Social Services Department, 6th Floor,
Mahatma Gandhi House, 34 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 8AD
Tel: 020 8937 3249
Fax: 020 8937 4194
E-mail: charles.hampshire@brent.gov.uk

Jenny Goodall
Director of Social Services