1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the proposed capital budget.

2.0 Royal Blind School

2.1 Special Equipment - £10,000

As previous year, for replacement manual handling equipment, sleep systems, standing frames etc.

This money is set aside to be drawn down to purchase any specialist equipment needed to meet the changing needs of our pupil population.

2.2 External Court Yards at Residential Area - £28,000

The court yards were renovated 9 years ago. As part of that renovation safe penned areas were created, however these are now viewed as unsuitable and it is the intention to remove the Perspex fencing system and soft surfacing and install a paved surfacing. This will allow free movement around the whole court yard area.

2.3 Convert Visual Assessment Suite into a Sick Bay - £16,000

The nursing team have identified the need for a sick bay and the head teacher has agreed. The sick bay will have an appropriate bed and equipment to care for any pupil that may become unwell.

The visual assessment room is adjacent to the nursing office and drug store and is the most convenient location for a sick bay. It is not used, and has become an equipment storage area.

The works consist of removing a wall, two way mirror, storage cupboards and electrical services. The room will need rewired, ceiling, wall and floors repaired where wall removed, new flooring and decoration.
2.4 Tracking Hoist to Hydro Pool - £16,000

The tracking hoist will replace the existing two hoists at the pool. The hoists are old and unreliable and are at a fixed location. The proposed hoist will give cover to the complete pool hall giving greater flexibility.

The Marketing and Fundraising Department already have pledges to fund 100% of the project cost.

2.5 Secure Communication Portal - £5,000

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 brings in a new set of duties under the title “named person”. The duties appear to call for information sharing between agencies that could have implications for data protection that may need to be obviated by means of secure communications.

There will be a period over the next few months when agencies like ourselves begin to make sense of our position with the new duties and their detailed implications, and in which we and others will look to find ways of achieving compliance at minimum cost. The head teacher and I.C.T. department will investigate a means of meeting the requirement with a view to being compliant in time for implementation. This initial budget is a contingency to allow consultancy work or simple solutions as authorised by the Chief Executive.

2.6 Fire Safety Improvements - £20,000

The fire safety risk assessment for the residential provision was recently reviewed, taking cognisance of the requirements of the Practical Fire Safety Guidance for care homes issued by the Scottish Government. The review highlighted a number of issues with regard to the protection of escape routes, fire detection and storage of materials.

Works required will be the installation of additional fire doors at each medication prep area, the extension of the smoke detection system to provide cover to any store, even those under 1 metre square, and the segregation of stored materials from the boiler plant in the attics. A review of external emergency lighting is required to ensure that the external pathways are adequately illuminated. There may be additional costs attached to the provision of lighting if the light levels are deemed inadequate.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The committee is invited to recommend the budget for approval.

George Notman
Facilities Manager
18 January 2016