REPORT TO:	CABINET MEMBER, CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET
DATE:	15 SEPTEMBER 2009 1 OCTOBER 2009
SUBJECT:	SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS: MEOLS COP HIGH SCHOOL, PROPOSED SCHEME
WARDS AFFECTED:	KEW WARD
REPORT OF:	PETER MORGAN DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CONTACT OFFICER:	CHRIS DALZIEL (0151 934 3337)
EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL:	NO

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To seek approval for the scheme detailed in this report.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Cabinet Member has delegated powers to approve the proposed scheme and to refer it to the Cabinet for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

(i) approve the proposed scheme, detailed in this report;
(ii) refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children's Services Capital Programme 2009/10.

KEY DECISION:	Yes.
FORWARD PLAN:	15 July 2009.
IMPLEMENTATION DATE:	Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not appropriate.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None.

Financial: There are no implications for the Council's general capital resources as all funding, detailed in this report, is from specific resources. The total cost of the scheme is £150,000 of which £100,000 is Standards Fund Capital Grant: Specialist Schools Programme and £50,000 sponsorship money, raised by the school. These specific resources will finance the increase in capital expenditure as shown in the table below.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	**2009/ 2010 £**	**2010/ 2011 £**	**2011/ 2012 £**	**2012/ 2013 £**
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	150,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources Standards Fund: Specialist Schools Programme Sponsorship Money	 100,000 50,000			
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?		
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Not appropriate.

Risk Assessment: There are no financial risks associated with this report as all funding is from specific resources.

Asset Management: In line with Children's Services Asset Management Plan.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Headteacher at Meols Cop High School has been fully consulted.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families, Specialist Schools Division, have approved the capital scheme.

The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and has no comments on this report. FD 105.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community	✓		
2	Creating Safe Communities	✓		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People	✓		

LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

The scheme detailed in this report contributes towards the following priorities of the CYPP.

- Reduce health inequalities.
- Create highly effective, inclusive learning environments for all age groups where learners can enjoy and achieve.

IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

The proposed scheme will contribute towards the CYPP priorities detailed above and towards the following LAA targets.

- Educational achievement and training.
- The health of children and young people.
- Statutory Education Targets.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None.

SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS: MEOLS COP HIGH SCHOOL, PROPOSED SCHEME

1. Background

1.1 The Secretary of State has designated Meols Cop High School as a Specialist School for Sport, with effect from 1 September 2009. A capital grant of £100,000 is available to enable the school to enhance its facilities for teaching the specialist subject. This funding must be supplemented by unconditional sponsorship, generated by the school, in cash or relevant goods, totalling £50,000. The school has raised £50,000 in sponsorship, all of which will be used towards the scheme.

1.2 Approval has been received from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for the school's proposed capital scheme, detailed below.

2. Proposal

2.1 The school wishes to improve the range of facilities for physical exercise within the school by providing a specialised dance studio. The existing library, which is one of the few rooms in the school of sufficient size or ceiling height for this purpose, will be converted to a dance studio. A changing area and store will also be provided and the main studio will have a spring floor and mirrored wall.

2.2 As the school is likely to be a phase 1 school in the BSF programme it is considered appropriate and prudent that existing accommodation is converted rather than building new. The school is confident that the function of the library can be accommodated elsewhere within the school.

3. Sefton Specialist Schools

3.1 Holy Family Catholic High School has recently been designated Specialist School status for Business and Enterprise and similar capital provision has been made to the school but this capital is not provided via the Local Authority as Holy Family is a voluntary aided school.

3.2 Any maintained secondary or special school can apply for specialist status in one of 10 curriculum specialisms. Schools can also combine any two of these specialisms and special schools can also apply for an SEN specialism.

3.3 The list below gives details of the 18 secondary and 2 special schools in Sefton that have achieved specialist status.

Specialism	Schools
Arts	Formby High, Maghull High
Business & Enterprise	Holy Family Catholic High, Savio Salesian College
Engineering	St George of England College
Humanities	Birkdale High, Crosby High Special
Languages	Greenbank High, Litherland High
Maths & Computing	Birkdale High, Maricourt Catholic High, Range High, Sacred Heart Catholic College
Science	Deyes High, Hillside High
Sports	Chesterfield High, Meols Cop High, St Ambrose Barlow Catholic College, Stanley High School
Technology	Christ the King Catholic High
SEN, Behaviour, Emotional & Social	Newfield Special

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

(i) approve the proposed scheme, detailed in this report;
(ii) refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children's Services Capital Programme 2009/10.