STATEMENT ON CAPITAL REVIEW

Is eol do chomhaltaí gur fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil scoile a bhí fágtha i bPlean soláthair Infheistíochta an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin i mí Dheireadh Fómhair sa bhliain 2009. Tá an t-athbhreithniú seo críochnaithe anois agus ba mhaith liom an t-eolas is deireanaí a thabhairt do chomhaltaí ar thorthaí an athbhreithnithe seo inniu.

Members will be aware that in October 2009 I announced a review of all school capital projects remaining on the Executives Investment delivery Plan. That review is now complete and today I would like to update members of the findings from that review.

Ag an am céanna, ba mhaith liom an deis seo a ghlacadh chun a chur in iúl do chomhaltaí faoi na sriantachtaí atá orm mar gheall ar na ciorruithe a rinneadh ar an bhuiséad oideachais i gcoitinne agus go háirithe ar thógáil chaipitil.

At the same time I would like to take the opportunity to inform members of the constraints facing me in light of the cuts which have been made to the education budget generally and specifically to the capital build aspect.

Ba é ba chuspóir leis an athbhreithniú caipitil ná a dheimhniú go bhfuil gach tionscadal sa Phlean Soláthair Infheistíochta i gcomhréir leis an chreat polasaithe agus, dá bhrí sin, go bhfuil siad inbhuanaithe inmharthana san fhadtéarma.

The objective of the capital review was to validate that each project in the Investment Delivery Plan is consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term.

Coimisiúnaíodh é lena chinntiú go n-uasmhéadaíonn muid tionchar

It was commissioned to ensure that we maximise the impact of

na n-achmhainní teoranta atá ar fáil dúinn ar mhaithe le sainleas na bpáistí agus na ndaoine óga.

the scarce resources we have available in the best interest of children and young people.

Rinneadh anailís mhionsonraithe ar an togra do gach tionscadal chun é a fhíordheimhniú i gcoinne na gcritéar.

A detailed analysis of the proposal for each project to validate it against the criteria has been completed.

Tá mé sásta a rá go meastar go bhfuil formhór na scoileanna san IDP inbhuanaithe inmharthana san fhadtéarma agus go bhfreastalóidh siad go maith ar leasanna na bpáistí agus na ndaoine óga.

I am pleased to say the majority of the schools on the IDP are considered sustainable and viable in the long term and would serve the interests of children and young people well.

Tá roinnt scoileanna eile ann le saincheisteanna áirithe agus tá soiléiriú breise ag teastáil. Ní raibh mé ag iarraidh aon scoil a chur as an áireamh sa chás gur chreid mé gurbh fhéidir na saincheisteanna a réiteach go gasta, agus, le rud beag oibre, bheadh na tionscadail seo réidh le tabhairt ar aghaidh.

There are a number of other schools, where there are issues that need further clarification. I did not want to exclude any school where I believe the issues can be quickly resolved and with a little work these projects should be ready to move forward

Ar deireadh, tá roinnt tionscadal scoile ann a chreidim nach féidir a thabhairt ar aghaidh de réir mar atá molta faoi láthair. Ní mór d'údaráis bhainistíochta na scoileanna níos mó oibre a dhéanamh, go háirithe chun cur chuige níos straitéisí

Finally there are a number of school projects which I have concluded cannot be taken forward as currently proposed. More work on these needs to be done by the school managing authorities, particularly in

maidir le soláthar pleanála a léiriú. Ba mhaith liom oibriú leis na scoileanna agus le húdaráis bhainistíochta na scoileanna chun a dhíriú ar na saincheisteanna a thagann chun solais ón athbhreithniú d'fhonn tionscadail a thabhairt ar aghaidh atá i gcomhréir leis an Pholasaí do Scoileanna Inbhuanaithe agus le cur chuige ceantarbhunaithe i leith pleanála.

reflecting a more strategic approach to planning provision. I want to work with the schools and school managing authorities to address the issues emerging from the review to bring forward projects that are consistent with the Policy for Sustainable Schools and an area based approach to planning.

Beidh mo Roinn ag scríobh chuig údaráis bhainistíochta na scoileanna agus chuig na scoileanna atá sa Phlean Soláthair Infheistíochta (IDP) le torthaí an athbhreithnithe a chur in iúl dóibh agus le hiarracht a dhéanamh na fadhbanna agus na buarthaí a tháinig chun solais ón athbhreithniú a réiteach, de réir mar is cuí.

My Department will write to the school managing authorities and the schools in the Investment Delivery Plan (IDP) to inform them of the outcome of the review and where appropriate seek to resolve issues or concerns which may have arisen as part of the review.

Cé go n-aithním go raibh frustrachas ar roinnt daoine mar gheall ar an athbhreithniú, tá sé de dhualgas orm a chinntiú go ndéanann muid an t-infheistiú ceart agus go dtógálann muid scoileanna atá oiriúnach don todhchaí. Tá mé sásta anois go bhfuil na tionscadail sin a

While I recognise that the review has caused frustration in some quarters it is my duty to ensure that we make the right investment and build schools fit for the future. I am now content that we have future proofed the projects that will be taken forward to construction.

thabharfar ar aghaidh chuig céim na tógála oiriúnaithe don todhchaí.

As na tionscadail atá i gcomhréir leis an pholasaí nó ar dóchúil go measfar iad le bheith i gcomhréir leis an pholasaí, nuair a thabharfar soiléiriú, tá 13 acu atá ag an chéim tairisceana nó ag an chéim réamhthairisceana. Bhí mé ag súil leis go mbeadh sé amhlaidh go mbeadh faomhadh ag cuid de na tionscadail seo nó ag na tionscadail ar fad le dul ar aghaidh ag an phointe seo. Ach is í an fhírinne lom ná go bhfuil barraíocht den chaiteachas caipitil geallta againn cheana féin mar gheall ar an laghdú sa leithdháileadh buiséid chaipitil atá ar fáil dom agus beidh moill ar na tionscadail seo dá bharr.

Of the projects which are consistent or are likely to be deemed consistent with some clarification 13 are either at tender of pre-tender stage. I would have hoped to be in the position whereby some or all of these projects had been given the go ahead at this point. The reality is however that with the reduced capital budget allocation available to me we are already over committed on capital spend and these projects will be delayed.

Chomh maith leis sin, ba dheas liom dá mbeadh thart ar 10 foirgneamh nua breise á dtógáil ar an suíomh roimh dheireadh na bliana airgeadais. Is féidir sin a dhéanamh go fóill má fhaighim an t-airgead a d'iarr mé i mbabhtaí monatóireachta mhí an Mheithimh.

In addition, I would have liked to have seen another 10 or so of new builds to have proceeded on site before the end of the financial year. That is still possible if I receive the monies I have bid for in the June Monitoring rounds.

Muna leithdháiltear na cistí seo ar

If these additional funds are not

DE le haghaidh tionscadal caipitil tógála, tá imní orm go bhfuil sé dosheachanta go mbeidh moill ar thógáil na scoileanna seo go ceann roinnt míonna eile. Go bunúsach, ní féidir scoileanna a thógáil gan an t-airgead.

allocated to DE for capital build projects then I fear that a delay on commencing these schools for some months is inevitable. We simply cannot build schools without the money.

Beidh díomá ar go leor múinteoirí, tuismitheoirí, daltaí agus gobharnóirí mar gheall ar an mhoill seo. Beidh díomá orm freisin. Is ríléir go mbíonn an ráta inar féidir leis an Roinn scoileanna nua a thógáil ag brath go hiomlán ar na hacmhainní atá ar fáil.

Many teachers, parents, pupils and governors will be disappointed at this delay. I share that disappointment. To state the obvious – the rate at which the Department can build new schools is totally dependant on the available resources.

Ach bhí laghdú suntasach ar bhuiséad mo Roinne. Tá dualgas iontach dúshlánach orm anois maidir le hinfheistiú san eastát scoile. Tá glanbhuiséad de £169milliún ag mo Roinn don bhliain airgeadais 2010-11, buiséad atá £84milliún níos ísle ná buiséad 2009-10 go praiticiúil. Áirítear air seo ciorrú de £22milliún a rinneadh le tabhairt faoi bhrú méadaithe caiteachais phoiblí a bhí ar an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin.

However my Department's budget has been reduced significantly. I now face a very challenging position regarding investment in the schools' estate. My Department has a net capital budget for 2010-11 of £169million, which is over £84 million lower in real terms than 2009-10. This includes a cut of £22m made to address increased public expenditure pressures facing the Executive.

Dá dtógfaí gach tionscadal a bhí ar an liosta IDP a measadh a bheith

To build all the projects on the IDP list deemed as viable and

inmharthana inbhuanaithe, bheadh níos mó ná £500milliún de dhíth de réir an mheastacháin is deireanaí. Nuair a mheastar an méid sin i gcomhthéacs an bhuiséid atá ar fáil, is léir go bhfuil todhchaí iontach gruama i ndán don chlár.

sustainable would take over £500 million at today's estimate. Set this against the available budget and the future programme is very bleak.

Ní féidir linn dearmad a dhéanamh den chlár tógála atá ar siúl faoi láthair áfach – tógadh 39 scoil nua ó mhí Bealtaine 2007 agus tá 13 eile acu atá ar an láthair agus a chuirfear i gcrích ar ball beag.

However we must not lose sight of the building programme that is currently underway – 39 new schools have been built since May 2007 and 13 more are currently on site and will be completed in the near future.

Tá ar mo Roinn an ciorrú seo a chur i bhfeidhm in ainneoin gur úsáideadh go hiomlán na cistí caipitil a bhí ar fáil di le dhá bhliain anuas. Ó mhí Bealtaine 2007, cuireadh tionscadail i gcrích a léirigh infheistiú de bhreis agus £253milliún san eastát scoile.

My Department is having to implement these cuts despite fully utilising the capital funds available to it in the last two years. Completing, since May 2007 projects representing an investment of over £253m in our schools' estate.

Má bhíonn moill ar thógáil scoileanna nua, beidh méadú ar na costais chothabhála a bhaineann leis an eastát scoile. Tá an staid airgeadais do chothabháil agus do mhionoibreacha iontach gruama fosta. Ní raibh mé ábalta ach £30milliún a leithdháileadh ar an

A delay in building new schools means I will have increased maintenance costs for the existing schools estate. The financial position for maintenance and minor works is also very bleak. I have only been able to allocate £30million to the minor works

chlár mionoibreacha a chuideoidh le cuid de na coinníollacha is measa atá le feiceáil i roinnt scoileanna a mhaolú.

programme which will help alleviate some of the worst conditions in a number of schools.

Tá mé go mór ag iarraidh scoileanna nua a thógáil. Chomh maith leis na scoileanna sin atá sa Phlean Soláthair Infheistíochta, tá 100 tionscadal féideartha eile ann fosta atá ag céimeanna éagsúla de Staidéar Féidearthachta agus de Bhreithmheas Eacnamaíochta. Tá sé sainaitheanta go bhfuil fadhbanna tromchúiseacha cóiríochta sna scoileanna seo ar fad agus tá sé éigeantach go soláthraítear na tionscadail seo.

I desperately want to build new schools. In addition to those schools on the Investment Delivery Plan there are also a further 100 potential projects at various stages of Feasibility Study and Economic Appraisal. All these schools have been identified as having serious accommodation issues and all of these projects need to be delivered.

Is féidir liom a dhearbhú leis an Tionól go leanfaidh mé den bhrú le cistí breise caipitil a fháil sa bhliain airgeadais seo agus tá súil agam go bhfaighidh mé tacaíocht ó gach páirtí agus ó gach comhalta sna babhtaí le linn na bliana.

I can assure the Assembly that I will continue to press for additional capital funds this financial year and I look forward to receiving support from all parties and members during in-year rounds.

Chomh maith leis sin, de thairbhe gurb í 2010-11 an bhliain dheireanach de thréimhse trí bliana den Athbhreithniú Cuimsitheach ar Chaiteachas, níl buiséad soiléir agam do bhlianta airgeadais

Further, as 2010-11 is the last year of a three-year Comprehensive Spending Review period, I do not have a clear budget in place for future financial years. A new Comprehensive

amach anseo. Cuirfear tús le hAthbhreithniú Cuimsitheach eile ar Chaiteachas ar ball beag, a chuimseoidh an tréimhse go dtí 2013-14.

Spending Review will be initiated shortly, which will cover the period until 2013-14.

Impím ar an Tionól go gcaithfear go gcinnteofar go dtugtar ardtosaíocht do chistiú caipitil don eastát scoile, fiú amháin sa timpeallacht an-dúshlánach airgeadais seo, má tá muid dairíre faoi athnuachan chreatlach an eastáit scoile, agus faoi ligint do na daoine óga teacht ar a gcuid oideachais i gcóiríocht nua-aimseartha atá oiriúnach don fheidhm. Creidim fosta go bhfuil sé de chumas ar infheistiú caipitil mar seo cuidiú leis an téarnamh geilleagrach – go háirithe dóibh siúd atá ag obair san earnáil tógála.

I would appeal to the Assembly, if we are serious about renewing the fabric of schools' estate, and allowing our young people to access their education in modern, fit-for-purpose accommodation, then, even in this extremely challenging financial environment, we must ensure that capital funding for the schools' estate is a priority. I also believe that such capital investment has the potential to help assist the economic recovery – particularly for those in construction

Ar deireadh, ba mhaith liom a chur in iúl go bhfuil mé tiomanta don chaighdeán is fearr cóiríochta a chur ar fáil do na daoine óga. Is ceist í seo a bhaineann le gach toghcheantar agus le gach páirtí polaitíochta a bhfuil ionadaíocht acu sa Tionól seo.

I would conclude by saying that I am committed to providing the best standard of accommodation for our young people. This is an issue for every constituency and every political party represented in this house.

Is é an rud atá i gceist ná tosaíocht. Níl maith le hionadaithe a bheith ina seasamh sa Tionól seo agus a bheith ag tabhairt léachta ar shaincheiseanna mar an clár um thionscadail chaipitil muna ndéanann siad gníomh lena chur ina luí ar a gcomhghleacaithe a shuíonn sa Choiste Feidhmiúcháin, gur chóir go mbeadh ardtosaíocht ag na tionscadail seo, fiú amháin sa ré dheacair eacnamaíochta seo.

It is a question of priority. It is pointless representatives standing up in this house and grandstanding on issues like the capital build programme if they do not follow that through by impressing upon their colleagues who sit in the Executive the priority that these projects should in my view enjoy, even in these difficult economic times.