



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Schools and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Children's Services
DATE:	13 April 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	ALL
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
KEY DECISION:	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBJECT: Schools and Education Capital Investment Programme 2017-2018

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present for consideration and approval the Capital Programme for Schools and Education for 2017-2018, as set out in this report

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Endorse the attached list of projects (Appendices 1 and 2) for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2017-2018.

Authorise Officers to progress the development and subsequently procure works in accordance with the Contracts Procedure Rules as written in the Council's Constitution.

Authorise expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, under Financial Regulation D2.

Notes that regular reports to the Executive Member for Schools and Education will be provided detailing any variations and amendments to the programmes and seeking necessary approval that may be required in compliance with the Constitution.

3. BACKGROUND

The provision of capital funding for Schools and Education at national and local level continues into 2017- 2018.

Since 2002 - 2003 the council has received a base line of Capital funding from Central Government to meet the responsibilities placed upon it by the Education Acts and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Successive Governments have offered opportunities to enhance this funding level via specific programmes and bid rounds which historically the council has been successful at securing.

Over the last decade capital investment has been targeted, in the first instance, at concerns relating to the condition of the building, as highlighted through the School Asset Management Plan, after which to address suitability (fitness for purpose) and sufficiency (capacity) problems. All of these areas can have a direct effect on the educational standards attained by pupils. This base line investment has enabled the Council to meet its responsibilities and national and local priorities on a continuing basis and ensure Schools are fit for the 21st century.

This has been achieved by use of robust asset management processes allowing the development of accurate lifecycle investment models, and cyclical maintenance plans. By building on this framework of known need the Council has been able to target the baseline funding in conjunction with specific programme funding to maximise the value of investment into the school environment.

This methodology has also allowed Officers to react quickly to changing policies and agendas both nationally and locally by bidding for funding based on comprehensive knowledge of the schools and their needs.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Details of indicative Schools Capital Allocations for 2017-18 are contained in Appendix 1.

In respect of maintained local authority schools, the School Condition Allocation (SCA) and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) figures are £961,224 and £241,188 respectively. This amounts to a total funding of £1.2M and will be directly managed by the Schools and Education Portfolio plus the carry forward of 2016-17 funding into 2017-18 (see Appendix 1).

For voluntary aided schools, the SCA and DFC funding amounts to £834,194 and £217,134, a total of £1.05M, which is allocated directly to School Governing Bodies.

The Schools and Education Capital programme (also known as the Planned Improvement Programme) is driven by capital priorities raised from the Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency Sections of school Asset Management Plans (AMP).

The budgets which will be available in 2017 - 2018 (Appendix 1), for capital improvement works in the authority's schools, can be categorised into 3 areas:-

- New Capital Developments

Capital funding which has been ring fenced for schools or centres within Blackburn with Darwen.

- Directly Managed

Projects, irrespective of whether internally or externally funded, are managed on a daily basis by officers from the Building Consultancy Team

- Indirectly Managed

Budgets which have been devolved to schools, as in the case of the formula capital budgets or, given to the Local Authority (LA) for capital works in voluntary aided schools (VA). In all cases, officers keep an overview on the individual projects whilst at the same time, monitor and where necessary manage, the overall budget in partnership with other parties i.e. Diocesan Authorities.

The Capital Programme for schools relates to LA responsibilities in community, controlled and VA schools in relation to the Fair Funding of Schools Regulations. Within the context of these regulations, as set out in the authority's scheme of financial delegation for schools, the LA retains the responsibility for "capital" improvements valued over £10,000 in all schools. The programme to address this work is collectively known as the annual Planned Improvement Programme, (PIP).

From inception to completion the Capital Programme is closely monitored by officers from the Building Consultancy Team and the Service Lead, Access to Learning against agreed key performance indicators (KPI's) representing measures of quality, cost and timescale.

The Capital Programme compiled for 2017-2018 (Appendix 2) reflects need in schools, which has been identified through each school's AMP (Asset Management Plan). By drawing the programme of works from the School's AMPs, we endeavour to adopt an equitable, transparent and fair approach to all. In addition, this year Officers from the Building Consultancy Team and the Services for Schools Team have visited schools to discuss priorities with schools and ensure AMPs accurately reflect the needs of the school.

The main priorities within the programme relate to:-

- 1) Compliance with Legislation
- 2) Provision of Sufficient Pupil Places
- 3) Improving Accessibility and Choice
- 4) Ensuring buildings are wind and water tight and provide a safe, warm environment for pupils and staff.
- 5) Correction of suitability issues to provide a building which is fit for purpose.

Where possible, schemes have been developed to manage a number of the above issues in one hit, so as to generate economies of scale and limit as far as possible the impact on schools.

In line with previous years, schools benefiting from the programme will, if possible, be expected to contribute to the works from either Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), or school reserves. A contribution is required to ensure that the Authority's funding is spread as far as possible and used in schools that have a commitment to working in partnership with the LA, to improve their school buildings and that community and controlled schools are in line with VA schools

As in the past, schools will be asked to find 10% of the total amount, up to a ceiling of two years formula capital.

A contingency fund has been included to address any unforeseen emergency works, especially through the winter period. As schools have less DFC available to them, the LA may find it will need to help with works below the threshold of £10k, more frequently than in previous years.

Due to the scale of the programme it is not possible to undertake all of the works, proposed for schools, within holiday periods. However officers from the Building Consultancy Team will work in close cooperation with Headteachers and governing bodies to minimise the impact of any capital work, on the day to day running of the school, during term time.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

National Policy Context

Central Government Policy on education has undergone a fundamental shift during the current parliament, with Councils being increasingly viewed as organisers rather than providers. However this shift in policy has not diminished our responsibility for current maintained sector schools. Therefore the Government has continued to fund the Council at similar levels to previous years.

Performance Implications

The Capital Programme made up of individual projects will be closely monitored against agreed performance indicators representing measures of quality, cost and timescale.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Capital Programme for the Schools and Education portfolio has been prepared in consultation with the Finance Department and is attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

Allocations to schools are fully covered by grant funding and are subject to Executive Board approval.

In respect of the local authority maintained schools sector, indicative 2017-18 capital funding for the School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital are £961,224 and £241,188. These allocations will be directly managed by this Portfolio in addition to the anticipated carry forward of funding from 2016-17 into 2017-18 financial year detailed in the appendices. The actual carry forward of funding will be confirmed during the year end closure process.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has been compiled with regard to the Council's Constitution, in particular the Financial Procedural Rules and the Contract Procedure Rules. All procurement and contract activity in connection with this programme must be carried out in accordance with the relevant parts of the constitution and legislation.

All contracts prepared in relation to the Programme must be in conjunction with Legal Services/CAPS team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource requirements for managing and coordinating the Capital programme will be met from within the current Building Consultancy structure and Schools and Education Leadership.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation, once approved, will occur with Governing Bodies, Head teachers and Diocesan Bodies.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	2.0
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Sharon Howard – Service Lead Access to Learning
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DATE:	21 st March 2017
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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