



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Schools and Education
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Children's Services
<b>DATE:</b>	12 April 2018

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

**SUBJECT:** Schools Capital Programme 2018-2019

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present for consideration and approval the Capital Programme for Schools and Education for 2018-2019 as detailed within this report.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Approves the attached list of projects as detailed in Appendix 1 & 2 for inclusion in the 2018 – 2019 Schools Capital programme.

Authorises officers to procure works in accordance with the Contracts Procedure Rules as written in the Councils Constitution.

Approves expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, in line with the Councils Standing Financial Instructions.

Notes that regular reports will be provided for the Executive Member detailing any variations/amendments to programmes of work and seeking necessary approvals where these are required to ensure compliance with financial instructions and the Constitution.

## 3. BACKGROUND

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

Capital investment is typically targeted in the first instance at concerns relating to the condition of school buildings, as highlighted through individual schools asset management plans. Funding can however also be used to make environmental improvements that will enhance teaching and learning spaces, and can also be used to address schools capacity issues. This base line investment has enabled the Council to meet its responsibilities and national and local priorities on a continuing basis and ensure schools remain fit for purpose.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Details of indicative Schools Capital Allocations for 2018-19 are contained in Appendix 1.

In respect of maintained local authority schools, the School Condition Allocation (SCA) and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) figures are £958,408 and £241,013 respectively. In addition a carry forward of £5,092,470 is expected for the financial year 2017-18, which would bring the total available budget to £6,291,891. The available budget will be directly managed by through the Schools and Education portfolio.

For voluntary aided schools, the SCA and DFC funding amounts to £834,194 and £216,784 a total of £1,050,978, which is allocated directly to School Governing Bodies.

The Schools and Education Capital programme is driven by capital priorities raised from the Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency Sections of individual schools asset management plans (AMP's).

The budgets which will be available in 2018 - 2019 (Appendix 1), for capital improvement works in the authority's schools, can be categorised into 2 areas:-

1. Directly Managed

Projects, irrespective of whether internally or externally funded, which are managed by officers from Blackburn with Darwen's Building Consultancy Team

2. Indirectly Managed

Projects associated to Voluntary Controlled (VC) Schools, where funding has been devolved directly to schools, and also projects associated to Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools where the funding has been given to the Local Authority and then devolved to the appropriate VA diocese. 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 2018-2019 (Appendix 2) reflects needs in schools, which have 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 have visited schools to discuss priorities with schools and ensure AMPs accurately reflect the needs of the school. Some of the proposed schemes will take longer than one year to complete due to planning and building control regulations, the size of the scheme and ensuring that work is carried out at suitable times (often during school holiday periods).

The main priorities within the programme relate to:-

1. Compliance with legislation
2. Ensuring buildings are wind and water tight, and able to provide a safe, warm environment for pupils and staff.
3. Correction of suitability issues to provide a building which is fit for purpose.
4. Enhanced teaching and learning spaces

5. Provision of sufficient pupil places
6. Improving accessibility and choice

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 School Condition Allocation 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

A contingency fund of £100,000 has been included to address any unforeseen emergency works, including those that compromise Health & Safety and/or Safeguarding regulations. As schools have less DFC available to them, the LA may find it will need to help with works below the threshold of £10,000, more frequently than in previous years.

## **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 2018-19 capital funding for the School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital are £958,408 and £241,013. These allocations will be directly managed by this Portfolio in addition to the anticipated carry forward of funding from 2017-18 detailed in the appendices.

## **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

The proposed programme will be cascaded to schools, governing bodies and diocesan bodies following Executive Board approvals.

## 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.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>2.0</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Carol Grimshaw – Service Lead Access to Learning</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	19th March 2018
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Appendix A – Schools and Education capital programme 2018-2019 Indicative budget allocations  Appendix B – School and Education 2018-2019 Existing live projects and New proposed projects
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