



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Schools and Education

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Strategic Director of Children's Services

**DATE:** 14 July 2022

**PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:** Schools and Education

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** Billinge and Beardwood; Blackburn South East; Bastwell and Daisyfield, West Penine.

**KEY DECISION:** YES  NO

**SUBJECT: EB Schools Estates and Capital Variation report**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present for approval variations to the 2021/2022 schools capital programme .

## 2.RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- 1: Approves a variation to the 2021/2022 schools capital programme to include new projects including:
- £250k for immediate roof repairs to Newfield School (complex needs building)
  - £20k for immediate repairs to the MUGA pitch on Troy Street, Blackburn
  - £35k for a replacement boiler at Belmont Primary School
  - £25k for a replacement water main at Longshaw Junior School

## 3. BACKGROUND

Newfield complex needs school, opened in Sept 2006, and was a new build, amalgamating the former Blackamoor Special School, and Dame Evelyn Fox Special School on a new site on Old Bank Lane. Over the last year, the roofing system has started to show evidence of deterioration and is in need of significant and immediate repair, to mitigate further decline and ensure that the school remains fit for purpose.

The MUGA pitch located on Troy Street, Blackburn sits within the demise of Brookhouse School and has over the years had minimal repairs. The pitch is currently unable to be used on the grounds of health and safety pending required repairs including patches of the pitch surface being replaced, some fence panels being replaced alongside some repairs to the floodlights.

The boiler at Belmont is irreparable and requires replacement ahead of the next winter period.

Longshaw Junior School require a new water main installing, and due to the significant disruption this work is required to be carried out during the summer holiday period.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

##### Newfield School

The existing roof has a number of defects which require immediate attention and repair to ensure that the building is watertight. The work is required to be undertaken in phases over the summer months to ensure that the premises is fit for purpose and mitigate the potential of the school having to close due to water ingress.

Closing the school (if the works were not completed in a timely manner), would be highly challenging as the LA does not have alternative provision of such a specialist nature to be able to decant the pupils to.

##### MUGA

This MUGA pitch is very well used, most evenings and weekends by the community and at this time whilst the pitch is closed on the grounds of health and safety the provision had been solely missed.

The costs associated to operating and maintaining this pitch have not previously been considered by the Brookhouse School. Going forward the school may need to consider a nominal charging structure to ensure that the operating costs of the pitch do not negatively impact on the schools revenue budget.

A significant risk for both capital projects and also for those projects that have previously been approved is the increasing costs materials, supply and manufacturing costs alongside the increasing costs of labour. Given this changing economic climate, there is potential for future reports to the Executive Board for financial variations for approved schemes of works.

##### Belmont School

The schools current boiler, providing heating and hot water is approaching the end of its serviceable life, with replacement parts becoming unobtainable along with suitable alternatives. If a critical part is to break this would leave the school with no heating or hot water, and potentially having to close for a period. Therefore a replacement of the current boiler, in the warmer temperature months is recommended.

##### Longshaw Junior School

The schools main water pipe has been subject to leaks and bursts previously, and reactive repairs have been carried out, but further leaks have occurred, impacting the whole of the school. Potentially leaving the school with no water and having to close for a period. Therefore it is recommended that the current main water pipe is replaced.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has responsibility to ensure that all allocated funding for maintained sector schools is used in accordance with the associated grant terms and conditions.

The capital projects added to the 2021/2022 programme will be closely monitored against agreed performance indicators representing measures of quality, cost and timescales.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The capital projects added to the 2021/2022 programme are detailed at appendix 1.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

All procurement and contract activity in connection with the variations detailed in this report will be carried out in accordance with the relevant parts of the Councils constitution and legislation.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

## 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

Local Authority maintained schools (community controlled and voluntary controlled) are consulted with on an annual basis to understand their current and future premises needs.

## 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>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Carol Grimshaw</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	<b>23 May 2022</b>
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**BACKGROUND  
PAPER:**

Appendix 1 – Schools Capital programme finance report