



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
DATE: 2025	9 January 2025

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Children, Young People and Education
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
KEY DECISION:	Y

SUBJECT: Schools Capital Programme 2024 - 2025

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To present for consideration and approval the capital programme for Schools and Education for 2024 - 2025 academic year as detailed within this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- 1: Approves the attached list of projects as detailed in Appendix 2 for inclusion in the 2024 - 2025 Schools and Education capital programme funded from School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital.
- 2: Approves the variations to the 2023 - 2024 capital programme for schemes at:
 - Newfield School - £650,000
 - Shadsworth Junior School - £1,700
 - St Michael with St John Primary School - £70,000
- 3: Delegates authority to the Strategic Director of Children's & Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education to undertake the procurement for the works in accordance with the Contracts & Procurement Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.
- 4: Subject to (5) below, approves expenditure to be incurred on individual projects, in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- 5: Agrees that projects proposed to be funded from s106 Agreements will not commence until funding under those agreements has been received in full by the Council.
- 6: Notes that 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

The Council receives capital funding from Government to meet the responsibilities placed upon it by the Education Acts and the School Standards and Framework Act.

Schools Condition Funding – Local Authorities are given an annual funding allocation for Community Controlled and Voluntary Controlled school buildings. This funding is targeted in the first instance at concerns relating to the condition of school buildings as highlighted through individual school’s 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.

Schools Basic Need Funding - this is allocated to LA’s based on pupil projection forecasts to specifically support demands for increased capacity for school places. The funding can be used to fund and/or part fund an increase in the capacity of school places at maintained schools, free schools and academies.

High Needs Provision Grant – this is allocated to LAs proportionally, based on each local authority’s estimated share of future growth in the high needs pupil population.

Devolved Formula Capital Funding – this is allocated for individual schools to spend on capital projects.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Schools and Education capital programme is driven by capital priorities raised from the Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency sections of individual school’s asset management plans (AMP’s), which are inclusive of information derived from compliance condition/audit reports e.g. asbestos surveys, legionella reports. In addition, the boroughs information on pupil place sufficiency is used to understand the demand for any required school place growth. As set out in the authority’s scheme of financial delegation for schools, the Council retains the responsibility for “capital” improvements valued over £10,000 in all schools.

Variations to existing approved schemes are requested including:

- Newfield School - Following full concept design and drawings, feasibilities and a high-level cost report the final outturn figure which is inclusive of the requirement for consequential improvements* is estimated at £650k higher than the budget originally requested. This increase is largely due to the time between the initial proposal and the delivery of a high-level cost report, and the inflationary costs attributed to the construction and manufacturing industries in this time period. Initial estimated costs for this scheme were based on 2021 rates from Spon's (Architects and builders price book) and BCIS (Building Cost Information Service)
**Consequential improvements - For an existing building with a total useful floor area of over 1000m², additional work may be required to improve the overall energy efficiency of the building if proposed work consists of or includes any of the following.*
 - a. An extension.*
 - b. Providing any fixed building service in the building for the first time.*
 - c. Increasing the capacity of any fixed building service (which does not include doing so on account of renewable technology).*
- Shadsworth Junior School - Historical outstanding retention payment of £1,700.
- St Michael with St John Primary School - Works required for this scheme are more extensive than what was originally considered including the installation of a new flue system along with associated pipework replacement/modifications, consequently requiring a variation of £70,000

Details of the proposed new capital programme and associated costs for the 2024 - 2025 academic year are contained in Appendix 1.

In respect of maintained local authority schools (Community & Voluntary Controlled Schools), the confirmed School Condition Allocation (SCA) and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) for 2024 - 25 are £1,318,731 and £218,425 respectively.

The local authority has also been awarded an allocation of High Needs Provision capital grant in 2024 - 2025 of £719,973.

In addition, unspent capital funding of £13,856,681 was carried forward from the 2023 - 2024 financial period, bringing the total available budget in 2024 – 2025 to £16,113,810.

The capital programme compiled for 2024 - 2025 (Appendix 1) reflects needs in schools, which have been identified through each school's AMP (Asset Management Plan). In line with previous years, schools benefiting from the programme will be expected to contribute to any capital 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 Council to improve their school buildings. Typically, schools are asked to contribute 10% of the total cost of the scheme. However, for those schemes that are of a high value (where a 10% contribution would be greater than the amount a school is able to retain and/or the school has no other means of funding), schools will be asked to contribute up to 3 years' worth of their allocated Devolved Formula Capital (DFC).

Schemes agreed in the 2024-2025 schools' capital programme are unlikely to commence on site before April 2025 (summer term), as the schemes need to be planned and procured in line with the Councils standing financial instructions. Works are dependent on the value of the scheme; type of scheme being delivered, and also on when the works can be safely delivered to ensure minimal disruption to the school day and pupils' education. Some schemes may have longer lead in time if these schemes need to be undertaken during the 6 weeks summer holiday period.

An allocation of £100k from the 2024 – 2025 Schools Condition Allocation is proposed to address any unforeseen emergency works, including those that compromise health & safety and/or safeguarding regulations. Any works not on the initial planned programme that require urgent attention and funding through this contingency will be reported retrospectively to the Executive board.

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Existing live capital programme schemes are detailed in Appendix 2 (table a)

The proposed capital programme for the Schools and Education portfolio for the 2024 – 2025 academic year, as well as variations to existing schemes, are detailed in Appendix 2 (table b).

The carried forward figure of £13,856,681 includes £3,269,900 in relation to s106 commuted sums, elements of which are due to be received from developers over the next three years. These schemes will not commence until funding under the Agreement has been received by the Council. Indeed, if these monies are not received within the expected timeframes the financing for the schemes they are supporting will need to be reviewed.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has been compiled with regard to the Council's Constitution, in particular the Financial Procedure Rules and the Contracts & Procurement 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 Schools and Education senior leadership team, alongside a funded service agreement with the Councils Construction and Facilities 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

All schools who are eligible for funding through the LA's school's capital programme are asked annually to submit their asset management plans which detail required/requested works.

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: 1

CONTACT OFFICER:	Carol Grimshaw, Head of Service, Schools System Support Sara Malone, Pupils Place Planning Coordinator
DATE:	25 November 2024
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1 - Schools and Education Capital Budgets Appendix 2 - Schools and Education Capital Programme