
CHILDREN SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Cyndi Hughes, Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' agreement to:-
 - (a) the proposed Education and Inclusion Service Condition Improvement Programme for 2018/19; and
 - (b) releasing the capital funds in relation to this programme.

Summary

2. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the release of School Condition grant funding of £110,000 for the 2018/19 academic year to support a range of projects and initiatives across maintained Darlington Schools. Additionally an under spend of £168,145 from the 2017/18 capital programme is available to support this year's projects. All funding has been allocated in line with rigorous assessment processes that support Asset Management priorities.
3. The Council has been allocated Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) of £85,289 for the 2018/19 academic year. This funding is a formula based grant provided to all maintained schools to help support the capital needs for their building.
4. **Appendix A** provides a full breakdown of all funding streams which are available and details of each of the projects identified as a priority for the allocation of capital funding.
5. All projects will be managed in line with the Corporate Capital Process procedures.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Members agree to formally release a total School Condition Allocation of £110,000 and agree the proposed prioritised capital investment programme for maintained schools, with delegated authority to the Director of Children and Adult Services to manage the authorisation of this funding.

Reasons

7. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) Release of the funds will enable capital investment to be undertaken in the areas identified with the greatest need, in terms of asset management priorities; and
 - (b) Detailed planning to identify priorities has been undertaken which ensures effective use of all investment.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the compilation of this report.

Julia McCabe: Extension 5903

S17 Crime and Disorder	Capital investment to improve facilities and provide better building maintenance will contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	The capital strategy outlined in this report will continue the Council's drive to provide buildings that enhance children's life chances and opportunities to thrive.
Carbon Impact	All work undertaken will be designed and constructed with sustainability in mind and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources.
Diversity	All capital projects will add to the diversity of buildings and technology available in Darlington.
Wards Affected	Schools located in: Park East, Pierremont, North Road, Red Hall and Lingfield, Eastbourne and Whinfield.
Groups Affected	Children and young people of school age (3-16) in Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision due to the amount of funding Members are requested to release.
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Capital Programme is consistent with Aspiring Darlington: providing high quality facilities that support modern approaches to education in schools and for lifelong learning.
Efficiency	Defective materials and plant will be replaced with more efficient products e.g. increasing 'u' value on windows, insulation and modern highly efficiency boilers.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The Authority funds the capital maintenance and improvement of maintained schools from a variety of sources including capital allocations received from the Department for Education (DfE) and bid based submissions for Central Government funding programmes (compiled and submitted by Officers or individual schools).
9. Appendix A provides a summary of the capital allocations available to support children's services capital programme and further details of the proposed works for each project.
10. Additional funding may be secured throughout the year and if this occurs reports will be brought to Cabinet to formally request the release of the additional funding.

School Condition Allocation 18/19 Programme of Works

11. The Local Authority has been allocated School Condition Allocation grant of £110,000 in 2018/19 to address capital maintenance needs across the borough's maintained schools. There is a balance of £168,145 which will be rolled forward to provide an overall total of £278,145. The Education Services and Inclusion section within Children and Adult Services is responsible for ensuring all funding is targeted to meet strategic priorities and the highest priority needs across maintained schools and nurseries.
12. Once a school has converted to an Academy it is no longer eligible to be considered for capital maintenance funding allocated to the LA but can apply direct to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for funding as required. No remaining maintained schools (for which the LA has building condition responsibility) are currently progressing to conversion.

Prioritisation Process

13. To guide local priorities for investment, officers work with Head Teachers of all maintained schools within the Borough to develop a Local Asset Management Plan Agreement (LAMPA) for their school. These plans are agreed in partnership with each school and concentrate on ensuring that investment is targeted to the highest need.
14. Appendix A provides information about each recommended project. In addition the following section of the report provides some additional background information about key priorities that have been put forward and details of a new approach to managing the condition needs of our buildings.

Asset Management Costs

15. Funding to support central costs for undertaking annual surveys on school premises to support Asset Management Planning arrangements. In addition a proportion of the personnel costs for the School Place Planning and Capital Assets Team are top sliced from the available funding to support co-ordination of asset management arrangements.

Urgent Works/Contingency

16. Each proposed project identified in Appendix A contains a 7.5% contingency within the estimated value of the works. A further £20,000 has been kept in reserve to cover any emergency works that may be required through the year. This will be monitored as the projects progress and, if possible, funding released for other schemes. Members are asked to delegate responsibility for approving the allocation of this funding to the Director of Children and Adult Services.

Future Condition Work Programming

17. School Condition Allocation is allocated based on pupil numbers in maintained provision. The LA has seen allocations reduce year on year as schools covert to academy status. With a change in government policy away from the push for all schools to be academies by 2020 it is likely we could be retaining the remaining schools over the medium to long term. Therefore we can assume, unless there is a change in longstanding methodology, we would get a similar level of funding in future years. This stability enables us to propose a slightly different approach going forward.
18. Maintained schools: Harrowgate Hill Primary (PFI - no condition liability for LA), Red Hall Primary, Whinfield Primary, Rise Carr College, Borough Road Nursery and George Dent Nursery. St Teresa's is still maintained but is also voluntary aided and the LA does not have responsibility for the condition of the school building. St Teresa's is currently consulting on converting to academy status and joining Carmel Education Trust, a multi academy trust.
19. In Autumn 2017 we commissioned condition surveys of all the maintained school sites. A three year rolling programme is proposed with the design work for the next three years of works to take place in 2017/18. **Appendix B** shows the proposed approach regarding projected income and spend. This will allow for a programme of between £310k and £370k over the next three years. Reducing to an estimated £140k to £200k programme the following three year period. The range is because we are proposing to retain £20k in each year for emergency works which could be reallocated to projects if not used for urgent works (line 5). Each project will have its own contingency. We propose saving £8k per year for surveys (line 6) and £7k per year for design fees (line 7) with expenditure in year 3 in preparation for the following three year programme.
20. This will enable us to address the identified condition priorities of our education estate and allow the project team more time to adequately prepare for the works on site.

21. Key milestones for the Summer 2018 programme are:

Milestone	Date
Mid CP2 cost estimates produced for Cabinet report	28 Feb 18
Submission any required approvals and the start of detailed design	01 Feb 18
Cabinet Request to release 18/19 funds	03 Apr 18
Tender award	05 Jun 18
Construction start – earliest	03 Jul 18
School Summer Holidays 2018	23 Jul to 31 Aug