

CABINET
12 JANUARY 2021

MAINTAINED SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2021

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Jon Clarke, Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
James Stroyan, Interim Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' agreement to:
 - (a) The proposed maintained schools' capital programme for summer 2021; and
 - (b) Release the capital funds in relation to this programme.

Summary

2. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the release of the School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding of £207,882 to undertake a programme of works across the maintained schools in Darlington during summer 2021. All works items have been identified as a priority for completion as part of a survey of the schools concerned. The surveys covered condition, electrical and mechanical.
3. The report also seeks the release of the 2020/21 Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) of £42,275. This funding is a formula-based grant provided to all maintained schools to help support their ongoing capital needs.
4. **Appendix 1** provides a breakdown of the projects identified as a priority for the summer 2021 works programme.
5. All projects will be managed in line with the Corporate Capital Process procedures.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Members:
 - (a) Agree to formally release a total School Condition Allocation of £207,882 and agree the proposed prioritised capital programme for maintained schools.
 - (b) Agree to formally release the 2020/21 Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) of £42,275.

Delegations

7. That the Director of Children and Adult Services is granted delegated authority to manage the authorisation of this funding.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are 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.

**James Stroyan,
Interim Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Paul Richardson: 0794 724 7224

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 and Climate Change	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	This proposal projects have no specific impact on protected groups.
Wards Affected	Schools located in: Park East, Pierremont, North Road, Red Hall & Lingfield 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

9. 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).
10. Appendix 1 provides a summary of proposed maintained schools capital programme for summer 2021.

School Condition Allocation (SCA)

11. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated the local authority £207,882 of School Condition funding for 2020/21 to address capital maintenance needs across the borough's five maintained schools. The Education and Inclusion Service 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 & 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.
13. The annual summer works programme is compiled using the information from local authority commissioned surveys covering building condition and electrical and mechanical services. A list of the highest priority works that fits within the available funding envelope is developed in conjunction with Building Services. That list is then subject to consultation with the maintained schools. The agreed version is at Appendix 1.

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

14. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated £42,275 to Darlington maintained schools for 2020/21 on a formula led basis. Local authorities are required to distribute DFC to their schools in accordance with the DfE published

allocations. Schools will be encouraged to manage spend in line with agreed priorities.

Asset Management Costs

15. An amount equivalent to 27.5% of the SCA is set aside to cover survey and design fees as part of the asset management process. This will be monitored as the projects progress and, if possible, funding released for other schemes.

Contingency / Urgent Works

16. The summer works programme retains a 13.5% contingency within the estimated value of the works. This is used to cover any unexpected costs or emergency works. 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.

Financial Implications

17. The funding for this project is all from DfE grant and there is no impact on Council funds.
18. All funds must be spent in accordance with the DfE's 'Condition grants spend guidance', the latest edition being from April 2020.

Consultation

19. The maintained schools have been consulted on the proposed programme and have agreed the priority works.