

**CABINET
10 JANUARY 2023**

MAINTAINED SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - SUMMER 2023

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

**Responsible Director -
James Stroyan, Group Director of People**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' agreement to:
 - (a) Release the 2022/23 school condition allocation for the schools' summer works programme 2023.
 - (b) Release the 2022/23 devolved formula capital to the maintained schools.

Summary

2. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the release of the 2022/23 School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding of £159,235 to undertake a programme of works across the maintained schools in Darlington during summer 2023. Works will include condition, electrical and mechanical surveys, works identified as a priority and any urgent works arising.
3. The report also seeks the release of the 2022/23 Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) of £42,257. This funding is a formula-based grant provided to all maintained schools to help support their ongoing capital needs.
4. All projects will be managed in line with the Corporate Capital Process procedures.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members :-
 - (a) Agree to formally release the 2022/23 School Condition Allocation of £159,235 to support the 2023 maintained schools' summer works programme.
 - (b) Agree to formally release the 2022/23 Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) of £42,257.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported as the release of the School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital will enable capital investment to be undertaken in the areas identified with the greatest need, in terms of asset management priorities.

James Stroyan
Group Director of People

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Paul Richardson: x6015

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 Wellbeing	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 programme has no specific impact on protected groups.
Wards Affected	Schools located in: Park East (Borough Road Nursery), Pierremont (George Dent Nursery), North Road (Rise Carr College), Red Hall & Lingfield (Red Hall Primary) and Whinfield (Whinfield Primary).
Groups Affected	Children and young people (Aged 2-16) in Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is an executive decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
Council Plan	The Capital Programme is consistent with the Council Plan 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	The proposed projects have no specific impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

7. 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), bid based submissions for Central Government funding programmes (compiled and submitted by Officers or individual schools) and Section 106 agreements.

School Condition Allocation (SCA)

8. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated the local authority £159,325 of School Condition funding for 2022/23 to address capital maintenance needs across the borough's five maintained schools. The Education and Inclusion Service within the People Group is responsible for ensuring all funding is targeted to meet strategic priorities and the highest priority needs across maintained schools and nurseries.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Asset Management Costs

11. 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

12. 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.

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

13. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated £42,257 to Darlington maintained schools for 2022/23 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.

Financial Implications

14. The School Condition Allocation, Devolved Formula Capital and Basic Need monies are all grants from the Department for Education (DfE). There is no impact on Council funds.

15. All funds must be spent in accordance with the DfE's 'Condition grants spend guidance', the latest edition being from April 2021.

Consultation

16. Any capital works will be undertaken in consultation with the schools concerned and in line with the priorities identified as part of the school's surveys.