

Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director,
People Services.

Report author: Gurmail Nizzer, Director for
Commissioning and Delivery.

Schools Capital Programme 2023/24

Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has received notification from the Department for Education (DfE) of school condition maintenance allocations for 2023/24 for Community and Foundation schools.
- 1.2 In order to commence scheme development, and to complete essential work during the school summer holiday period, early approval of schemes is necessary. It is therefore proposed to seek scheme approval for schemes in line with the notified allocation of £3,172,948.
- 1.3 A breakdown of the school maintenance Capital Programme funding for 2023/24 is set out within Appendix 1. The proposed phase 1 schools capital programme schemes for 2023/24, including proposed individual school condition maintenance projects, are outlined in Appendix 2.
- 1.4 The proposal is for funding to be prioritised to deal with essential school condition and maintenance issues across the schools estate for Council maintained schools. An on-going programme of work is required in school premises to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues to ensure that school buildings remain safe and open.
- 1.5 This report seeks Council Cabinet approval for the schools maintenance capital programme for 2023/24 as set out within Appendix 2.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the Schools Capital Programme priority schemes for 2023/24 as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 To approve scheme commencement of schemes outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To approve the amendment of the approved 2023/2024 and indicative 2024/25 capital programme with the revised budget projections detailed in Appendix 1 and the proposed scheme allocations detailed in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 To note the delegated approvals in place to add/amend a scheme to the approved capital programme up to £0.250m, if contained within the programme area, as set out in appendix 3.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 An on-going programme of work is required in school premises to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues across the schools estate to ensure that school buildings remain safe and open. In order to complete as much work as possible during the school summer holiday period, early approval of schemes is necessary.
- 3.2 In accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, amendments to the Council's capital programme are required to be reported to Cabinet.

Supporting information

4.1 School Condition Capital Programme

Capital investment across the schools estate in Derby is essential to address condition issues. There remains a significant backlog of condition issues across the schools estate, which is in excess of £15m for priority works. This condition backlog only covers building condition issues and excludes costs associated with betterment (unless required under Building Regulations), asbestos identification/removal, work identified as a result of fire risk assessments or any water hygiene remedial work.

- 4.2 The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed Derby will be allocated £3,172,948 in School Condition Allocation funding for Community and Foundation schools for 2023/24.
- 4.3 In order to commence scheme development, and to complete essential work during the school summer holiday period, early approval of schemes is necessary. A breakdown of Schools Capital Programme funding for 2023/24 is set out within Appendix 1.
- 4.4 School capital projects for 2023/24 have been prioritised for those schools with the highest level of need, to ensure that buildings are safe by addressing priority health and safety works. The priority condition schemes for 2023/24 primarily fall into the following five categories:
 - Boiler replacements;
 - Building Fabric and Structural works;
 - Electrical rewiring works;
 - Roofing works;
 - Window replacement works.

The proposed priority school condition projects for 2023/24 are shown in Appendix 2, including details of the proposed work and budget estimates. These indicative budget estimates are subject to a detailed feasibility, design development and procurement process.

- 4.5 There are a range of projects proposed within the Schools Capital Programme 2023/24, detailed in Appendix 2, to address high priority maintenance and condition issues across the schools estate.

4.6 Schools Devolved Formula Capital

The DfE have also confirmed school Devolved Formula Capital funding for individual schools. This funding is to be used by schools on maintenance and condition projects. This is a small funding stream based on a formulaic allocation of £0.004m per school, and a small per pupil element. Schools prioritise this funding in line with their School Asset Management Plan.

- 4.7 At its meeting on 6th December 2017, Cabinet approved delegated authority to add schemes to the capital programme to ensure the schools capital programme is delivered effectively during the year. Cabinet is asked to note this delegation, alongside current Financial Procedure Rules delegations, as outlined in Appendix 3.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Council have developed the priority projects set out in this report in conjunction with the schools.

Other options

- 6.1 The available capital funding has been prioritised to deal with the most urgent condition and health and safety issues within Community and Foundation schools.

Financial and value for money issues

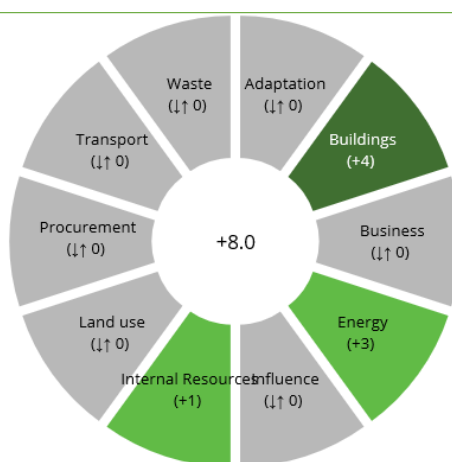
- 7.1 The Council's school condition maintenance allocation available for 2023/24 is £3.915m for Community and Foundation schools. This is made up of a confirmed 2023/2024 allocation of £3.172m from the DfE and £0.742m from the balance of previously announced unallocated school condition funding (subject to 2022/23 year-end), as set out in Appendix 1. The schools Devolved Formula Capital allocation has been confirmed as £0.303m, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 The 2023/24 capital programme budget, approved at February 2023 Cabinet, included historical indicative budget estimates for School Condition Allocation and Devolved Formula Capital funding, as set out in Appendix 1. The capital programme needs to be updated to reflect the respective current allocation forecasts, set out in Appendix 1.
- 7.3 Appendix 1 outlines funding for the Schools Capital Programme for 2023/24 to be invested across the schools' estate. Appendix 2 outlines the proposed school condition projects.
- 7.4 All School Capital Programme schemes will be procured in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Legal implications

- 8.1 If any works require planning permission approvals, these will be sought prior to works commencing.

Climate implications

- 9.1 All school capital programme schemes will be carried out in line with the latest Building Regulations approved documents on environmental performance. Where possible, schemes will be designed to allow for future improvements to move towards net zero carbon goals, where possible and subject to future funding availability. It is not possible to convert the Council's existing school building stock to net zero carbon in operation from the limited school condition funding allocations available. The proposed schemes are prioritised to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues to ensure that school buildings remain safe and open.
- 9.2 In line with Council requirements for Cabinet reports, an initial Climate Impact Assessment summary is set out below. This indicates that the proposed schemes will make a positive contribution to the Council's climate change commitments, and in particular for buildings, energy and internal resources.



Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 School capital projects for 2023/24 have been prioritised for those schools with the highest level of priority condition need, and to assist in keeping buildings open and safe by addressing priority health and safety works. Works are prioritised to prevent school or building closures which could otherwise impact on all pupils within the school(s). Potential closures would pose a risk of disproportionately impacting any pupils who are already experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 **Personnel**
None arising from this report.
- 11.2 **Health and Safety**
The priority projects are important for Health and Safety reasons and to conform to Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and Building Regulations 2010. Health and Safety procedures will be followed in delivering schemes in line with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

11.3 Equalities Impact

The Council aims to take reasonable steps to remove, alter or provide reasonable means of avoiding physical features that make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people. Where appropriate, schemes will take account of any accessibility requirements.

11.4 Corporate objectives

This report supports the following Council priority focus areas:

- Green City – lowering CO² emissions/improving energy efficiency
- City of Growth – more children and young people achieving their potential through education, skills and development.

11.5 Property and Asset Management

An on-going programme of work is required in school premises to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues to ensure that school buildings remain safe and open. Appropriate monitoring will be required at those schools where priority works are not proposed as part of the 2023/24 school capital programme.

11.6 Risk Management and Safeguarding

The priority projects will reduce the risk of future school closures due to structural, mechanical or electrical failures. It should be noted that the overall school condition backlog exceeds the funding available, therefore schemes are prioritised where there is greatest risk of school closure in order to ensure schools remain safe and open. All projects will be managed and monitored in line with the Council's project management and risk assessment procedures. Where it has not been possible to prioritise schemes, mitigation plans will be developed in consultation with schools.

11.7 IT

Any potential IT implications for prioritised schools will be addressed as part of the detailed planning and design work for each scheme. There are no IT implications for the Council's own IT systems as a consequence of any of the proposed schemes.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services	21/02/23
	Janice Hadfield (Head of Finance, Children and Young People)	16/03/23
	Toni Nash (Head of Finance Organisation and Governance)	15/03/23
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Director for Commissioning and Delivery	03/03/23
Report sponsor Other(s)	Andy Smith, Strategic Director - People Services Philip Derbyshire, Head of Property Projects and Technical Services	21/02/23

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – School Maintenance Capital Programme 2023/24 Funding Appendix 2 – Proposed School Priority Condition Projects 2023/24 Appendix 3 – School Capital Programme Delegations

Schools Maintenance Capital Programme 2023/2024 Funding

	Local Authority Schools Capital Programme	Budget
To be allocated to proposed schemes in Appendix 2	New 2023/24 Condition Funding Allocation: The current approved capital programme contains provision for an anticipated School Condition Allocation of £1,100,000. Following changes to the DfE allocation formula, and notification from the DfE of 2023/24 allocations, the Council's allocation for 2023/24 will now be £3,172,948.	£3,172,948
	Existing remaining 2022/23 School Condition Buildings At Risk funding, phased in 2023/24 (indicative subject to 2022/23 year end)	£742,286
	Total available for school condition projects (subject to 2022/23 year-end)	£3,915,234

School Devolved Formula Capital 2023/24 (Local Authority)	
New Allocation for 2023/24 (Indicative): The current approved capital programme contains provision for an anticipated School Devolved Formula allocation of £120,000. It is anticipated that the Council's allocation for 2023/24 will now be £300,000, in line with the 2022/23 allocation.	£303,589

Proposed Schools Capital Programme Priority Condition Projects for 2023/24

School	Scheme Description	Allocation	2023/24 Scheme Phasing	2024/25 Scheme Phasing
Gayton Community Junior School	<p>Boiler Replacement:</p> <p>Works are required to replace the schools obsolete heating boilers and associated pumps to avoid potential block closure. To reduce the reliance on gas, as part of the Council's Climate Change commitments, it is proposed to install a hybrid heating solution consisting of an air source heat pump running alongside new modern energy efficient gas fired boilers.</p>	£294,000	£244,000	£50,000
Gayton Community Junior School	<p>Building Fabric and Structure:</p> <p>A large proportion of the timber floors have started to fail, including the main corridor floor. Works are required to replace the corridor floor to prevent tripping hazards and make the school more accessible for people with physical impairments. It is proposed to undertake works in phases, with phase 1 including replacing the floors with new timber coverings. Phase 2 works to replace the floors with concrete will be subject to further detailed design work and brought forward for possible prioritisation as part of a future years capital programme.</p>	£169,000	£167,000	£2,000
Littleover Community School	<p>Roofing works:</p> <p>Removal of existing failing roof covering, installation of additional insulation and provision of new weather tight roof covering to prevent further water ingress and damage to the building fabric. This phase of work will be the highest priority wing of the main A block of the school.</p>	£190,000	£188,000	£2,000
Meadow Farm Community Primary School	<p>Roofing works:</p> <p>The works are to provide a new roof covering to the main school building, and includes the replacement of high level hall windows and roof lights across the entire roof. Works will prevent further damage to the building fabric as a result of water ingress arising from the failing roof coverings. Works will also include building fabric improvements and sealing of concrete structural panels to main system built school building.</p>	£651,000	£644,000	£7,000

Murray Park School	<p>Window Replacement:</p> <p>Further phase of window replacement to Block C at the school. Replacement of failing single glazed, metal framed windows with modern powder coated aluminium double glazed units.</p>	£276,000	£273,000	£3,000
Oakwood Infant & Nursery School	<p>Electrical Rewiring:</p> <p>Phase 1 works to complete a whole school rewiring, including power outlets, ICT data cabling, lighting, emergency lighting, fire alarms and intruder alarms. It is proposed to bring forward a second phase of works for possible consideration as part of future years capital programme.</p>	£211,000	£208,000	£3,000
Ridgeway Infant School	<p>Building Fabric and Structure:</p> <p>The school building is a timber Vic Hallam system building construction type, and is beyond it's anticipated and design life span. Work is required to replace the structural timber window panels and posts to prevent potential school closure. Final proposed works will be confirmed following ongoing discussion with the DfE regarding the anticipated school replacement scheme, as part of the DfE School Replacement Programme. The Council will prioritise only the most pressing works required at the school before it is replaced.</p>	£380,000	£376,000	£4,000
Shelton Infants School (including Shelton Junior School).	<p>Boiler Replacement:</p> <p>Works are required to replace the schools obsolete heating boilers and associated pumps to avoid potential block closure. To reduce the reliance on gas, as part of the Council's Climate Change commitments, it is proposed to install a hybrid heating solution consisting of an air source heat pump running alongside new modern energy efficient gas fired boilers. The boiler plant room is located on the Infant School site, but serve both the Infant and the Junior School.</p>	£384,000	£380,000	£4,000
Shelton Junior School	<p>Window Replacement:</p> <p>Replacement of failing single glazed, metal framed windows with modern powder coated aluminium double glazed units, including the provision of a number of additional fire escape doors where possible.</p>	£304,000	£300,000	£4,000
The Bemrose School (Secondary)	<p>Building Fabric and Structure:</p> <p>Work is required to replace failing structural columns to the external shelter and storage area at the school. The structure also forms the school boundary with neighbouring properties and is locally listed for its local importance as part of The Bemrose School site.</p>	£120,000	£118,000	£2,000
	Sub Total	£2,979,000	£2,898,000	£81,000

Buildings at Risk	Remaining Buildings at Risk - Condition Funding contingency			
	Subject to 2022/23 year-end and final 2023/24 allocation announcements from the DfE. To include mitigation works, and urgent health and safety condition works to prevent potential school closures. Further schemes to be prioritised and reported to Cabinet as necessary.	£936,234	£0	£936,234
	Total	£3,915,234	£2,898,000	£1,017,234

School Capital Programme Delegations

To note delegated approvals are in place for updating the approved School Capital Programme.

In order to deliver the approved schools capital programme effectively during the year, and make the best use of school holiday periods to undertake works, it is necessary to delegate authority to officers to add schemes to the capital programme and agree variances (as long as they can be contained within the programme area). Delegated approvals are in place as follows:

Delegation to add schemes to the capital programme	
Value	Delegation to
Up to £50,000	Head of School Organisation and Provision.
Between £50,001 and £250,000	Director for Commissioning and Delivery (People Services) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills.

Scheme Budget Variation	
Value	Delegation to
Up to 10% or £50k variation (whichever is the greater)	Head of School Organisation and Provision.
£50k - £250k variation	Head of School Organisation and Provision – with the approval of the Cabinet Portfolio Member for Education and Skills.

Updates to the approved School capital programme, approved under officer delegation, are then reported to Cabinet through Quarterly Financial Monitoring reports.