

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: Report on the Schools Condition Capital Programme 2023-24

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	19 April 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the 2023-24 Schools Condition Capital programme.

Council Plan priority

Learning Barnsley – Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

1. Cabinet approves acceptance of the School Condition Allocation (SCA) capital grant.
2. The list of schemes, detailed in Appendices B and C be approved and financed from the 2023-24 Department for Education (DfE) School Condition Allocation;
3. The Executive Director – Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson – Regeneration and Culture, be authorised to vary the programme of works, and to approve additional schemes, to meet emerging priorities;
4. The financial implications arising from the report be included in the capital programme and released in accordance with the Financial Regulations Code of Practice C5.2(a).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) provide Local Authorities an annual School Condition Allocation (SCA) capital grant to address urgent building condition defects, including health and safety and safeguarding measures across the maintained school estate, early years settings, and family centres.
- 1.2. On the 28th March 2023 the DfE announced Local Authority SCA funding allocations for the 2023-24 financial year. For Barnsley, this amounts to £0.631M which is a reduction of £0.036M on the funding received in 2022-23.
- 1.3. The formulae used to calculate the SCA is based on a combination of pupil numbers attending a Local Authority maintained and the physical condition of schools, as determined by the data from the DfE's centralised Condition Data surveys, which compares the condition of Barnsley schools to schools across the country.
- 1.4. The current number of maintained primary schools the Council is responsible for under the SCA is 22. There are a further 5 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) primary schools, but these are managed through the PFI contract and are outside of this process. The sole remaining Local Authority controlled secondary school, Penistone Grammar is operated under the BSF contract arrangements and is also excluded from this process. With continued Academisation, the allocations to local authorities will continue to be reduced, as the funding transfers to the various Multi Academy Trusts to manage.
- 1.5. In setting priorities for the 2023-24 School Condition programme, the Council has used the available data from its own condition data, centralised DfE surveys, school visits and, where appropriate, consultations with other services, including BMBC Health and Safety and the Council's in-house Property Services surveyors.
- 1.6. The backlog of maintenance on the maintained schools is shown in the table below:

High Priority Works (to be completed within 18 months)	£2.841m
Medium Priority (to be completed within 3 years)	£3.012m
Low Priority (to be completed within 5 years)	£0.778m
Total Maintenance Requirement	£6.631m

- 1.7. As the table highlights, the available funding will be insufficient to deal with the high priority items. It is therefore highly unlikely that any medium priority items will be addressed within this period. During the 2022-23 financial year, £0.815m was spent on the maintained school estate, addressing High Priority condition items.
- 1.8. To meet the 2023-24 school summer holiday period, it has been necessary to commence initial surveys and investigation works on several schemes included in the programme.

2.0 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Appendix C of this report provides further details of the proposed schemes

within the School Condition programme. These are necessary to address urgent condition works, Health and Safety remedial works and safeguarding concerns on maintained schools.

- 2.2 Officers will ensure that the proposed schemes will comply with the terms and conditions attached to the School Condition grant allocation set out by the Department for Education.
- 2.3 The installation of additional insulation and LED lighting on a number of projects will support Council’s declared climate emergency and Zero 40 strategy.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Financial Implications

- 3.1.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

Capital Expenditure

- 3.1.2 The 2023-24 Schools Condition capital programme is estimated to total £0.771M and is summarised in the table below with further detail at Appendix B.

Scheme	Existing Roofing Schemes 2022/23	Cost Increases to 2022/23 Approved Schemes	2023/24 New Schemes	2023/24 Proposed Budget
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Roofing Works	0.140	0.010	0.105	0.255
Electrical Works	-	-	0.135	0.135
External Condition Works	-	-	0.288	0.288
Health & Safety Works	-	-	0.093	0.093
Total	0.140	0.010	0.621	0.771

- 3.1.3 In respect of the 2022-23 roofing programme, capital plans totalling £0.290M were approved for works at Birdwell Primary. Due to site constraints and access, it was necessary to split the scheme into two phases of work. The first phase of works was completed over the summer 2022 holiday at a cost of £0.150M. The remaining £0.140M is already included in the Council’s capital programme, but the estimated costs of the scheme have increased by £0.010M. With the addition of 2 new schemes totalling £0.105M, the revised budget for roofing now amounts to £0.255M.

Capital Funding / Resources

- 3.1.4 The DfE have confirmed a 2023-24 School Condition funding allocation for Barnsley amounting to £0.631M and the programme has been based on this allocation.

3.1.5 It is proposed to fund the additional cost of the 2022-23 roofing schemes (£0.010M) by utilising the 2023-24 Schools Condition Grant. The remainder of the anticipated allocation is planned to be used on further roofing works, electrical works, external condition works and health and safety works.

3.1.6 A full summary of the Schools Condition Programme can be found in Appendix B, with more detailed scheme details in Appendix C.

Revenue Implications

3.1.7 It is expected that there may be minimal savings to the revenue running costs of some schools included within the programme following the installation of additional insulation in roofing project and low energy LED lighting.

Governance

3.1.8 The proposal contained within this report has been approved to proceed by the Capital Oversight Board on the 2nd February 2023.

3.1.9 The financial implications of this report are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

Risk

3.1.10 The current costs identified within the report are based on estimated prices. Until actual tendered prices have been received, there is a risk that scheme costs could change.

3.1.11 The current construction market is in a volatile position as a result of continued supply chain issues caused by the pandemic and Brexit. In addition, the rising cost of gas, electricity and fuel will impact on the manufacture and delivery of materials. The full impact will not be known until the works are procured as the market is expected to fluctuate over the coming months.

3.1.12 As far as reasonably practical site surveys and investigations will be carried out on the building and site to identify potential risks to the project. Where identified these will be included with the tendered works.

3.1.13 As with any building work, there is always a risk of unknowns that only surface once the works have commenced, or demolitions have started. The project costs will be closely monitored as part of the Directorate's regular capital monitoring and risk management.

3.1 Legal

3.1.1 The proposed schemes are required to comply with the terms and conditions attached to the School Condition grant allocation set out by the Department for Education.

3.1.2 As the Council is receiving a grant this will need to be compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Officers should consult Legal Services in this regard.

3.1.3 The procurement of works funded under the Capital Works Programme should comply with the Councils CPRs and the Public Procurement Regulations where applicable.

3.1.4 The programme includes a 2nd phase of Roofing Works at Birdwell Primary, a school which is in the process of converting to academy status. A works agreement will be required setting out parameters for the work and rights of access and confirming the works must be complete by September 2023.

3.2 Equality

The programme includes 3 schemes where full Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken. The findings are summarised below:

3.2.1 Gawber Primary and Thurlstone Primary – Drainage Works / Resurface school playground

The works to improve the drainage and surface of the school playgrounds will have a positive impact for disabled building users.

3.2.2 Cawthorne CE Primary – Foundation Stage Play Area refurbishment

The works to replace the damaged soft play area surface and removal of raised platforms within the play area will have a positive impact for disabled building users.

3.3 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel completed:



The schemes identified within the 2023-24 school condition programme have been identified to address urgent condition defects and enhance provisions at a number of schools in Barnsley. These will impact on the environmental and social elements of some of the individual schemes. Installing low energy lighting and ensuring surface water run off is properly managed provide positive environmental benefits and the use local supply chains and improved access to external play has a positive social impact for Barnsley.

3.4 Employee

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.5 Communications

Proactive communications will be shared with elected members and the public on the progress of school condition improvements. Schools will also communicate directly with families affected by any works.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Executive Director, Place, and representatives of the Service Director for Finance (the S151 Officer).

4.2 The programme has been prepared to address urgent condition and property related operational issues. Schemes are identified in a transparent way using condition data determined from surveys undertaken by the Council and DfE.

4.3 Where appropriate discussions with school stakeholders have taken place to inform the programme and further consultations will take place during scheme development and delivery.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The summer holiday period of six weeks is normally when most of the School Condition works can be completed. To minimise the pressure of delivering the whole School Condition programme over this period, where possible, and in discussions with schools, some schemes may be carried out over alternative holiday periods or during term time, only where it is safe and practical to do so.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Undertaking the schemes identified within the 2023-24 School Condition Programme will address urgent condition defects and improve or enhance facilities on the school estate.

7.0 GLOSSARY

DfE	Department for Education
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
SCA	School Condition Allocation

8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

- 1.1 Appendix A – Financial Statement
- 1.2 Appendix B – Proposed School Condition Programme
- 1.3 Appendix C – Further details on the proposed schemes included in the School Condition Programme

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working papers regarding this matter are held on files within the Assets Team and contain exempt information.

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10.0 REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Appendix A, outlining the financial implications has been provided.</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Kate Gothard</i> <i>22.02.2023</i>

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Date: 29th March 2023