

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director of Place

TITLE: Report on the Schools Condition Capital Programme
2022-23

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	1 June 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Place, Regeneration & Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the 2022-23 Schools Condition Capital programme.

Council Plan priority

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

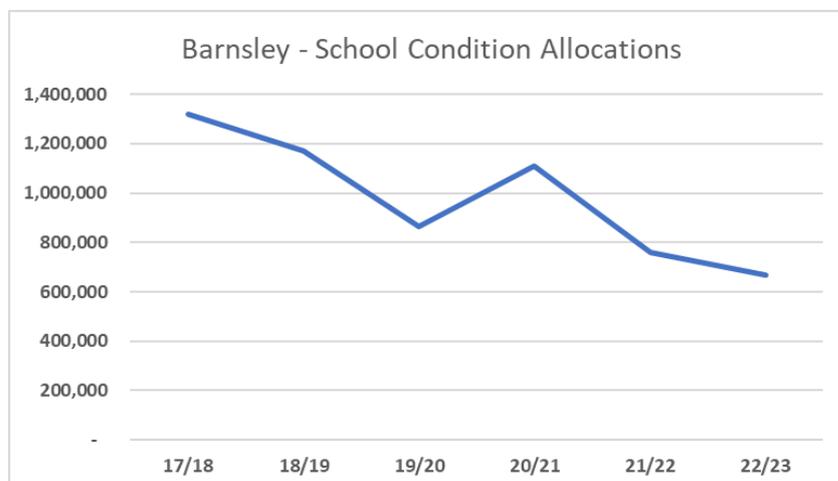
Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

1. The list of schemes, detailed in Appendices B and C of the report be approved and financed from the 2022-23 Department for Education (DfE) School Condition Allocation;
2. The Executive Director - Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson, be authorised to vary the programme of works, and to approve additional schemes, to meet emerging priorities;
3. 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 28th March 2022 the DfE announced Local Authority SCA funding allocations for the 2022-23 financial year. For Barnsley, this amounts to £667,384 and is a reduction of £0.091M on the funding received for 2021-22.
- 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. The impact of this can be seen in the chart below:



- 1.5. The 2020-21 allocation shows a one-off additional payment of £0.352m allocated to Barnsley as part of the government's national transformative school rebuilding (including repairs and upgrades) programme. Without this additional funding, the allocated funding has reduced year on year.
- 1.6. In setting priorities for the 2022-23 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.

- 1.7. The backlog of maintenance on the maintained schools is shown in the table below:

High Priority Works (to be completed within 18 months)	£3.456m
Medium Priority (to be completed within 3 years)	£3.412m
Low Priority (to be completed within 5 years)	£0.578m
Total Maintenance Requirement	£7.446m

- 1.8. 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. These figures have increased by over £1.939M on the figures reported in 2021-22, following the receipt of new mechanical, electrical and roofing condition surveys that have been undertaken by the council's property team on a small number of schools.
- 1.9. The proposed programme includes schemes included on previous approvals that were not completed, due to design developments or insufficient original scheme funding allocations.
- 1.10. To meet the 2022-23 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 The installation of additional insulation, LED lighting, efficient kitchen appliances and low water usage sanitaryware in 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 2022/23 Schools Condition capital programme is estimated to total £1.234M and is summarised in the table below with further detail at Appendix B.

Scheme	Existing Roofing Schemes 2021/22	Cost Increases to 2021/22 Approved Schemes	2022/23 New Schemes	2022/23 Proposed Budget
	£M	£M	£M	£M
Roofing Works	0.567	0.295	-	0.862
Internal Condition Works	-	-	0.055	0.055
External Condition Works	-	-	0.115	0.115
Health & Safety Works	-	-	0.202	0.202
Total	0.567	0.295	0.372	1.234

3.1.3 In respect of the 2021-22 programme, there are three roofing schemes that that have been delayed in terms of their delivery. Capital plans totalling £0.567M were approved and are already included in the Council's capital programme. Furthermore, there has also been an estimated increase in the cost of these schemes which totals £0.295M, bringing the total revised budget to £0.862M.

Capital Funding / Resources

3.1.4 The DfE have confirmed a 2022-23 School Condition funding allocation for Barnsley amounting to £0.667M and the programme, as outlined above, has been based on this allocation.

3.1.5 The high level, indicative 2022-23 School Condition funding was approved in principle in the Council's 2022-23 budget papers (Cab.9.2.2022/6 refers).

3.1.6 It is proposed to fund the additional cost of the three 2021-22 roofing schemes (£0.295M) by utilising the 2022/23 Schools Condition Grant. The remainder of the anticipated allocation is planned to be used on both the internal / external condition works and health and safety works.

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

Revenue Implications

3.1.8 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 projects, low energy LED lighting and kitchen appliances.

Governance

3.1.9 The proposal contained within this report has been approved to proceed by the Capital Oversight Board on the 3rd March 2022.

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

Risk

- 3.1.11 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.
- 3.1.12 The current construction market is in a volatile position as a result of 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.
- 3.1.13 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.
- 3.1.14 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 programme includes a scheme to replace the roof at Milefield Primary that was due to be undertaken during the summer of 2021.
- 3.1.2 Following structural investigation works, during the design process, it was determined that the original proposal to over-clad the existing roof would not be achievable due to the additional weight placed on the unique structure of the school. This resulted in the scheme being deferred until a suitable solution could be found.
- 3.1.3 The school converted to an Academy in July 2021 and the councils commitment to address the long standing issue with the roof formed part of a legal works agreement between the council and academy trust during the transfer process.
- 3.1.4 The works agreement sets out that the works must be completed by September 2023.

3.2 **Equality**

The programme includes 2 schemes where full Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken. The findings are summarised below:

3.2.1 Gawber Primary – Entrance Works, Phase 2

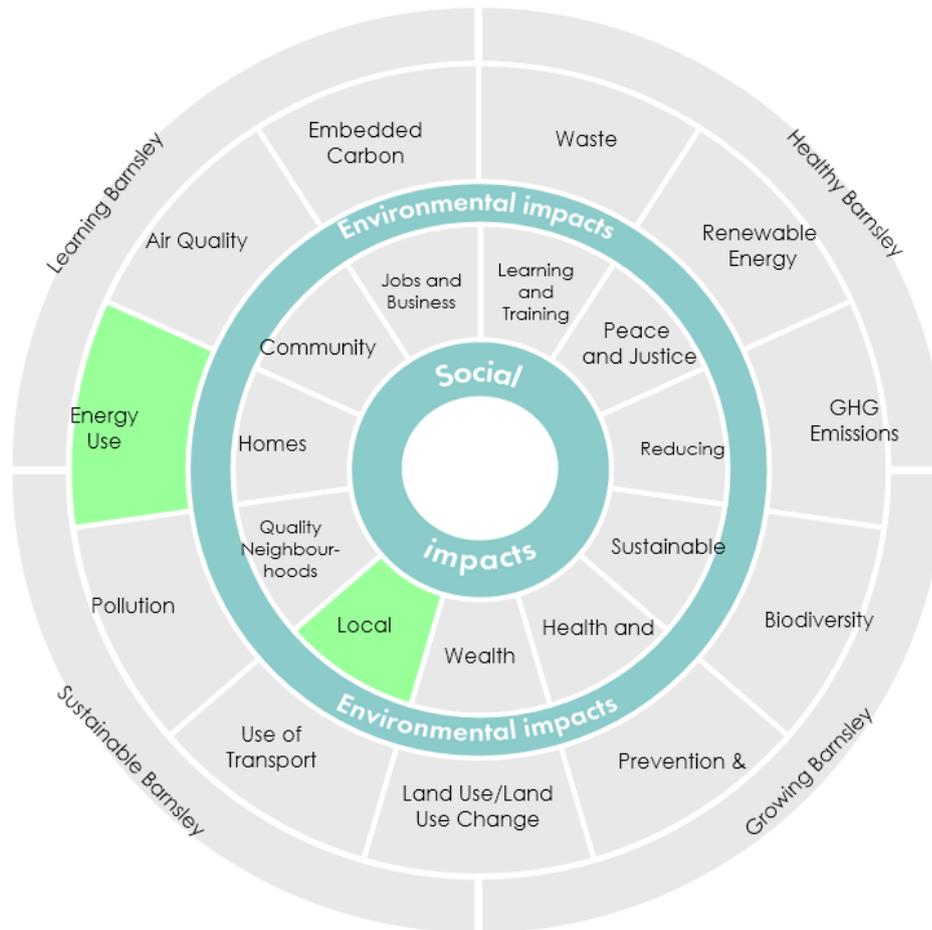
The works to improve the approach to the school, install dropped kerbs and provide accessible parking adjacent to the main entrance have a positive impact for disabled building users.

3.2.2 Summer Lane Primary – Formation of gender-neutral toilet facilities

The scheme will have a positive impact by providing a block of self-contained toilet facilities for all building users. These will not replace any existing facility and offers a choice for all individuals.

3.3 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel completed:



The schemes identified within the 2022-23 school condition programme have been identified to address urgent condition defects and enhance provisions at a number of schools in Barnsley. As a result, the environmental and social impacts of some of the individual schemes are small, but there are schemes whereby sustainable construction, installation of additional insulation and low energy use equipment and fittings, and using recycled materials will provide positive environmental benefits. The use of local supply chains will also provide 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 2022-23 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 Implications

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	<i>Appendix A, outlining the financial implications has been provided.</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Jason Field – 23rd March 2022</i>

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Post: School Asset & Project Manager
Date: 20th April 2022