



Schools Forum

**Wednesday, 17 January 2018 4.00 p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

*Please contact Ann Jones - Tel: 0151 511 8276 or email:
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SCHOOLS FORUM

At a meeting of the Schools Forum on Wednesday, 11 October 2017 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillor T. McInerney (Observer)
 A. Jones, Financial Management, HBC
 A. Jones, Democratic Services, HBC
 N. Unsworth, Financial Management, HBC
 M. Vasic, Strategic Director, People
 E. Wright, Secondary Academy Representative
 K. Albiston, PVI Representative
 A. Brown, Nursery Schools Representative
 J. O'Connor, PVI Representative
 J. Coughlan, Primary Representative - Infant School
 N. Hunt, Pupil Referral Unit Representative
 J. Wilson, Secondary Governor Representative
 K. Landrum, Primary Representative - VA School (In the Chair)
 J. Vincent, All Through Schools Representative
 S. Evans, Secondary Academy (Observer)

Action

SCF10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Richard Collings, Marjorie Constantine, Lesley Davies and Elaine Haver.

SCF11 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Forum was requested to nominate a Chairperson as the previous Chair had now retired. The current Vice Chair, Karl Landrum, nominated himself; this was seconded and agreed by the Forum. As the Vice Chair role was now vacant, the Forum was asked for a volunteer to carry out this role. Jim Wilson nominated himself; this was seconded and agreed by the Forum.

The Forum was advised that four existing Members' terms were up for review in June / July 2017. Following consultation with the relevant school groups, it was agreed that the following Members' terms be extended to 2021:

- Amanda Brown – Nursery School Sector;
- Richard Collings – Community Primary Sector;
- Karl Landrum – VA Primary Sector; and
- Jim Wilson – VA Secondary Sector.

The Forum also received updates on the recent canvassing carried out to recruit for representation for the following groups:

- Primary School with a Nursery; and
- Small Primary School.

It was noted that no nominations had been received for either group so the representation for these remained vacant.

The Chair suggested that in order to stimulate interest from another group, he swaps his 'VA Primary' representation for the 'Primary School with a Nursery School' group (as his School has a nursery), so that a representative for 'VA Primary' could be canvassed for instead. The Clerk would canvass the VA Primary group and revert to the Forum.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum

- 1) agree that Karl Landrum be designated as Chair;
- 2) agree that Jim Wilson be designated as Vice Chair;
and
- 3) the updates and actions be noted.

The Vice Chair continued the meeting as the newly appointed Chair.

SCF12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

SCF6 – Schools Block Funding – Former Education Services Grant (ESG)

Further to the Schools Forum Sub Group (Task and Finish Group) that took place on 14 September 2017 to discuss this, Officers advised of the following outcomes:

- Financial Management – agreed;
- Capital Development – agreed with £5k contribution from the Early Years Block;
- Health and Safety – agreed;
- Dismissals budget – agreed – already de-delegated this financial year;
- Internal Audit – not approved;
- Education Welfare – not approved; and
- Premature retirement costs – deferred.

It was noted that colleagues involved with the task and finish group on behalf of the Forum had to make difficult decisions that may be disappointing to Members and this

was regrettable. Funding for the current EAL provision was discussed at the same Schools Forum Sub-Group and it was agreed that the shortfall in funding between the SLA income from schools and the cost to St Chad's to provide the service this financial year, be funded from contingency. It was suggested that further information be provided regarding the Premature Retirement costs at the special meeting being held on 8 November 2017 to discuss the National Funding Formula.

SCF9 – United Utilities Update

The maintained nursery and PVI representatives queried the status of charges for their settings. They were advised that the officer from Sefton MBC who took the lead on this issue did not attend the last North West LMS Finance Officers meeting so they were unable to raise the issue. The question of the status of Early Years settings would be followed up.

SCF13 EARLY YEARS QUALITY SUPPORT

The Forum received a summary of the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) and an outline of the proposal to model and to introduce a new Quality Supplement from April 2018.

It was noted that the Early Years Funding Formula (EYFF) required local authorities to establish a base rate per hour (the basic per pupil element) and an additional mandatory supplement for deprivation. In addition there were a number of discretionary supplements: Rurality / Sparsity; Flexibility; Quality; and English as an additional language.

It was noted that prior to April 2017, in agreement with Schools Forum, it was decided that the Halton EYFF would consist of only the base rate and the deprivation supplement to keep the formula as simple as possible and to prevent significant amounts of monies being moved from one provider to another due to the change in formula, rather than on the basis of need.

It was reported that since the introduction of the new funding regulations in April 2017, Halton had faced a significant reduction in funding for maintained nursery schools. Although it was possible to significantly increase the rate per hour to PVI providers, this could not be at the loss of the maintained sector so a middle ground was required. It was agreed by Schools Forum to use the quality

supplement to support the additional costs of employing a QTS on teacher's pay and conditions as a solution.

The report presented information on the EYNFF; the consultation undertaken with nursery settings; and the intention to audit the PVI providers, so that the new quality supplement model can be used.

It was noted that following a consultation with all stakeholders in the Autumn term, a report would come to the Schools Forum in January 2018 for a decision.

Officers advised that the Early Years guidance was not due to be released until December so no work would take place on the Early Years Funding Formula for 2018-19 until this was received.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum agrees to the introduction of the proposed Quality Supplement in the EYNFF.

Operational Director -
Education, Inclusion
and Provision

SCF14 NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA 2018-19 UPDATE

The Forum received the National Funding Formula (NFF) proposals for 2018-19.

It was reported that following the Department for Education (DfE) consultations earlier this year, the schools revenue operational guide and NFF for schools and high needs policy document were issued on 4 August and 14 September respectively. These documents set out the requirements for the 2018-19 funding formula for primary and secondary schools and academies, including the cash values for the funding factors within the NFF; these were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Forum was advised that further information had been released on 28 September 2017 which included the technical notes supporting the above documents, whilst the indicative school allocations using the NFF based on the October 2016 census was now due to be released in early October.

Officers advised the Forum that the consultation documents for the proposals would be sent out by Friday 13 October 2017; with a response deadline a week later on 20 October 2017. Members complained of the short timeframe given to read such a detailed technical document; comments such as these would be included in the responses and it was noted that the LA had already raised the short timeframe

with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

It was noted that for the first time in many years, the decision on how the schools funding formula would look rested with the Local Authority rather than Schools Forum. A special Schools Forum meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 8 November 2017 to discuss the consultation responses and proposals for the funding formula.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SCF15 HIGH NEEDS UPDATE 2018-19

The Forum received the High Needs Block Funding proposals for 2018-19.

The Department for Education issued a Stage One consultation on High Needs Funding in March 2016 with proposals on how allocations to local authorities would be calculated from April 2018. This was followed up by a Stage Two consultation beginning in December 2016 which closed in March 2017. Following this, further guidance regarding high needs funding for 2018-19 was released in September 2017.

The basis of allocation to each LA was explained in the report and presented in figure 6.

The report advised of the situation with placements in Out of Borough provision and the costs related to this. The Forum heard the suggestion regarding the employment of a Commissioner at Grade HBC 11, who would undertake certain tasks as discussed in the report, with the aim of driving down costs and the number of pupils being placed outside the Borough. The Forum discussed this suggestion and the consensus was that they would support the proposal.

The Forum was also advised that to address the rising cost of SEND support in the Borough, it was agreed that an All Age Review of SEND be undertaken. This would be commissioned externally and would explore demand, the causes of demand and how we could better meet the needs of children and young people in a more sustainable way in future years.

In addition to this the Authority was working with the other 5 Liverpool City Region (LCR) Authorities to look to review SEN sufficiency, so the review would look at the current provision and demand across the LCR.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

SCF16 CARRY FORWARD BALANCES

The Forum received the level of school balances brought forward from 2015-16 used to set budgets in 2016-17; and the balances brought forward from 2016-17 used to set budgets in 2017-18.

It was noted that following the June report on schools end of financial year balances, Schools Forum requested that the level of school balances be looked at in order to set the budget. For this purpose the information had been gathered over the past two years and this was attached to the report at Appendix A.

In summary the overall carry forward balances for 2016-17 had reduced by 28.5% and the proportion used in order to set budgets had reduced by 26.7%. It was noted that it had not been possible to include the proportion used to set budgets for all schools (marked *unknown* in Appendix A) as they had not responded to the request for the information or had not responded in time, for the exercise to be completed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 5.05 p.m.

SCHOOLS FORUM

At a meeting of the Schools Forum on Wednesday, 8 November 2017 at Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillor T. McInerney (Observer)
 K. Landrum (Chair) Primary Representative (VA School)
 J. Wilson (Vice-Chair), Secondary Governor Representative
 A. McIntyre, Education, Inclusion & Provision, HBC
 A. Jones, Financial Management, HBC
 A. Jones, Democratic Services, HBC
 N. Unsworth, Financial Management, HBC
 T. Bell, 16-19 Provision
 K. Albiston, PVI Representative
 A. Brown, Nursery Schools Representative
 J. O'Connor, PVI Representative
 R. Collings, Community Primary School Representative
 S. Broxton, Primary Governor Representative
 N. Hunt, Pupil Referral Unit Representative
 J. Vincent, All Through Schools Representative
 E. Haver, Special Academy Representative
 E. Wright, Secondary Academy Representative
 S. Ainsworth, Special Schools Representative (Substitute)
 C. Towell, Primary Representative – Infant School (Substitute)
 S. Evans, Secondary Representative (Observer)

Action

SCF17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Marjorie Constantine and Jackie Coughlan (nominated substitute Members were in attendance).

SCF18 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING FOR 2018-19

The Forum considered a proposal to transfer funds from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2018-19.

Members were advised that from April 2018 the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) would be split into four blocks: Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block and would be used as follows:

- The Schools Block – to support mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies and funding distributed via a funding formula for pupils in Reception to Year 11;

- The Central Schools Services Block – to support central functions on behalf of pupils in state funded maintained schools and academies;
- The High Needs Block – to support provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for age 0-25, including central services;
- The Early Years Block – to support provision for children aged 2 to 4.

It was noted that since the introduction of the revised funding formula in April 2013 local authorities had been allowed to move funds between the blocks of DSG freely. From April 2018 the Schools Block element would be ring fenced and must be fully distributed via the funding formula. However, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will allow authorities to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block allocation to the High Needs Block to ease budget pressures.

The report provided information regarding the consultation exercise that was carried out; this document was appended to the report as Appendix A. The responses and comments from the consultation were appended to the report as Appendix B.

Members considered the conclusion as presented in the report and discussed the increasing demands on the high needs block.

A vote was conducted and the Forum agreed with the majority of the respondents to the consultation, that the transfer of funds should go ahead for the 2018-19 financial year, to be taken from the basic per pupil funding factor.

RESOLVED: That the Schools Forum

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) agree a 5% transfer of the December 2017 Schools Block allocation of DSG to the High Needs Block for 2018-19.

SCF19 SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2018-19

The Forum received the Schools Block Funding Formula for 2018-19. It was reported that the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant was to fund pupils in mainstream primary and secondary schools. From April

2018 it would be ring-fenced and must be devolved to schools via a funding formula.

The report discussed the impact of the High Needs transfer (if agreed); the impact of the former Education Services Grant de-delegation; and premature retirement costs. Information was provided on the consultation carried out with maintained schools and academies; the consultation document was appended to the report at Appendix A. Appended at Appendix B were the consultation responses.

A summary of the responses was provided in the report with regards to the three funding formula options presented in Appendix A. In conclusion it was clear that the majority of schools who responded to the consultation indicated a wish to move straight to the National Funding Formula (NFF) with transitional protection for 2018-19. By moving to the NFF with transitional protection for 2018-19, Halton would remain on the NFF for 2019-2020, probably with transitional protection again, as it was unlikely that sufficient funding would be received to implement the full NFF until April 2020, when it was expected to be wholly funded.

The information was considered and discussed by the Forum, which was asked to make a decision on which funding formula they wanted to use for 2018-19. Officers put forward the option that was not voted for by schools; that an interim funding formula is used to ease the transition, which would lower the level of funding reductions to schools losing funding. This could only be funded by not supporting the higher levels of increases in funding to schools receiving more funding. It was noted that in Halton the majority of schools should be receiving more funding under the NFF than seeing reductions.

After further debate the Forum voted for the third option, to use an interim funding formula for 2018-19, as discussed above.

It was noted that a final decision on which funding formula to use for 2018-19 would be made by the Executive Board on 16 November 2017, after which schools would be notified of the decision.

The Forum also discussed the funding of the premature retirement costs (previously funded by the ESG) as a decision was required as to whether this could be de-delegated from schools for 2018-19, subject to final pupil

numbers based on the October 2017 census data. Members appreciated the efforts made by Officers to reduce the cost per pupil from £38.70 to £20.77; however the consensus of the Forum was that this was still unacceptable. Members suggested using budget Reserves to fund the costs (£268,000) and although the impacts of using this were questioned and discussed, the Forum agreed to fund the retirement costs using Reserves.

RESOLVED: That Schools Forum

- 1) note the report;
- 2) agree that an interim funding formula be used for the mainstream primary and secondary funding formula for 2018-19; and
- 3) agree that the premature retirement costs be met using budget Reserves.

Meeting ended at 5.05 p.m.

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Forecast DSG outturn for 2017-18

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 **To report to the School Forum the forecast outturn position of DSG budgets for 2017-18**

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

When preparing the budgets for 2017-18 we had concerns that we had insufficient funding for our requirements and would need to utilise some carry forward. Below are the forecasts based on expenditure to 3rd January 2018.

Findings

Schools Block – we are forecasting an overspend of £33.5k, as a result of a payment from General Contingency not budgeted for at the start of the year.

Early Years Block – we are forecasting a small underspend of £47.8k as we are hopeful we will not need to use all the contingency budget this year.

High Needs Block – the forecast overspend is £765.3k at this point in time. This relates to three main areas as follows:

	Budget	Outturn	Overspend
Independent Special School placements	£2,463,230	£2,861,311	£398,081
Inter Authority placements	£175,000	£254,814	£79,814
Top-up Funding	£5,189,205	£5,384,934	£195,729

Summary

The total forecast outturn is an overspend of £751.0k. Given we brought forward a balance of £1.636m, it is envisaged that we will have a balance of just £885.3k to carry forward into 2018-19.

The more detailed outturn report will be presented to Schools Forum in the Summer Term as normal.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Schools Block funding for 2018-19

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum the Schools Block funding for 2018-19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the level of Minimum Funding Guarantee to be applied to school budgets for 2018-19 is agreed.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

In November we held an extra Schools Forum meeting to discuss the outcome of the consultation with schools regarding which funding formula option to recommend to Executive Board. Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend that an Interim Funding Formula be used and modelling work commenced the day after the meeting.

However, after a few weeks it was evident that we could not, within the constraints of the Schools Block regulations, build an Interim Funding Formula that did not adversely affect the funding for more schools than would be adversely affected by the NFF with transitional protection. After discussion, it was decided that we should return to Executive Board in December and ask that we use the National Funding Formula with transitional protection. This was in line with the majority of responders to the consultation and would minimise both the number of schools adversely affected by the change in formula and the level of their loss in funding.

3.2 Grant allocation 2018-19

The grant allocation has been announced for Schools Block as £84,318,746. Therefore the 0.5% to be transferred to the High Needs Block is £421,594 leaving £83,897,152 for distribution to primary and secondary schools and academies through the National Funding Formula with transitional protection. This is an increase of £1,177,586 from the allocation of £82,719,566 for 2017-18.

The Central Schools Service Block allocation has been announced at £676,852 for 2018-19. This is the first year the funding for such services has been separated from Schools Block funding.

3.3 Pupil Numbers

Pupil numbers in primary and secondary schools has again risen from 17,669 in

2017-18 to 17,957, which is an increase of 288 pupils.

3.4 Current position

The October census data was released on Friday 15th December and the grant allocations on Tuesday 19th December. Work so far has concentrated on the High Needs Block deficit. Therefore the Schools Block calculations are not currently available but will be tabled at the meeting.

In line with regulations, the Central Schools Block allocations will also be tabled at the meeting along with the rates for the De-delegated budgets which can now be finalised.

3.5 Minimum Funding Guarantee

The MFG protection can be varied between minus 1.5% as per previous years to plus 0.5%. This is to allow local authorities flexibility to meet the NFF requirements.

As per the consultation held with schools during the Autumn Term and agreement at the last Schools Forum meeting, Schools Forum are required to agree the level of MFG to be applied for 2018-19. The recommendation for the level of MFG will be tabled at the meeting as it will not be known until the Schools Block calculations are completed.

3.6 Finalisation of Schools Block Budgets and notification of Indicative budgets to schools

The ESFA require our Schools Block funding formula to be submitted by Thursday 18th January. Once the submission is made, indicative Schools Block budgets will be distributed to all Head Teachers subject to ESFA approval. The ESFA must approve the funding formula (or reject it with reasons) by the end of February. Once approval is received, we will confirm Schools Block budgets to Head Teachers as quickly as possible.

High Needs Block and Early Years Block budgets will be notified to Head Teachers as soon as they are available, but it is not envisaged this work will be completed until March.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Early Years Funding for 2018-19

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report to the School Forum the current position on Early Years funding for 2018-19

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

Halton moved to the new Early Years National Funding Formula as required by the Department for Education in April 2017. We are now preparing for the 2018-19 funding formula.

Update

The Early Years NFF Operational Guidance was released towards the end of November with no major changes to the NFF requirements. We were also notified of the hourly rate that we will be funded for 2018-19 and the indicative grant allocation, although this will be updated during the year. Following the consultation with all stakeholders during the Autumn Term the intention is to change the quality supplement criteria for 2018-19 to support staff with qualifications at Levels 5, 6 and 7 plus QTS (Early Years).

The hourly rate we received from the DfE for 2016-17 was £5.69 which reduced to £5.40 for 2017-18. This is reducing again to £5.13 per hour for 2018-19. Due to the low level of DSG reserves it is likely that the only way to keep within budget is to reduce the hourly rates. This is not what is wanted and every effort will be made to minimise any such reduction, however if the overall funding for Early Years to the authority is being reduced – possibly by £400-£450k there is no other option available to us.

Next Steps

Information from providers regarding staff qualifications has been received and collated. Once the January headcount data is received work can commence on calculating the likely grant allocation and the cash values for our funding factors for 2018-19. A further report will be brought to Schools Forum in March.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17 January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: High Needs Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report summarises the estimated high needs deficit for 2018/2019 and proposes a range of options to bring expenditure in line with the budget allocated to Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Forum consider and agree options for the reduction of high needs funding ensuring that the budget is brought in line with the resources available.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Following consultation and discussion at School Forum it was agreed in November 2017 that 0.5% could be transferred from the Schools Budget to the High Needs budget in 2018/2019. £421,594 has therefore been added to the High Needs budget.

3.2 Although this transfer of funds is helpful and reduces the deficit it still leaves a total of £1,654,547 funding gap. Each area of the budget has now been scrutinised and School Forum are asked to consider each of the options listed below.

Early Years Top Up Funding **£80,000**

It is proposed this funding is met from within the Early Years allocation.

5% - Reduction in Top up Funding **£269,000**

The proposal is to reduce top up funding by a minimum of 5% across primary, secondary and special schools, with the exception of the PRU.

Placements at Independent Special Schools **£398,000**

A number of high cost placements will cease at the end of the 2017/2018 academic year. Every effort will need to be made by all schools and academies to support Halton pupils within borough. This reduction in costs will bring expenditure in line with the budget. Once appointed the role of the SEND Commissioner will be to try and explore other options for reducing the costs of out of borough provision, by renegotiating placement costs and seeking opportunities to support pupils within local schools within the borough.

Inter Authority High Needs Placements **£80,000**

Reduction in the costs of High Needs Placements in other Local Authority provision.

Pupil Referral Unit **£300,000**

Review and reduction of the level of top up funding provided for pupils at the PRU.

Behaviour Support Team **£127,930**

The recruitment timeline for the new Behaviour Support team means that the team will not be in place until September 2018. The allocated funding has therefore been reduced by 4/12 for 2018/2019.

Removal of High Needs Contingency **£8,185**

Remove this contingency budget as this is no longer affordable.

Post-16 Administration Posts **£18,000**

It is proposed to removal funding for this post.

Reduction in Supplies and Services **£5,000**

It is proposed to remove the funding allocated to the SEN Assessment Team for supplies and Services.

- 3.2 Although there will be an increase in student numbers at Riverside College it is proposed to cap the element 3 allocation to the same level as allocated in 2017/2018 to ensure affordability.
- 3.3 The options listed above will save a total of £1,281,115 leaving a deficit of £368,432. If the reduction in the level of top up funding across the board is reduced by 12% this would produce a balanced budget.

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 17th January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2018/19

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2018/19 for the People Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the capital funding available for 2018/19 is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In October 2017 the Department for Education announced the schools Capital grant allocations for 2018/19 and confirmed that there will be no change in the methodology used in 2017/18 for 2018/19, therefore Halton should receive the same amount as in 2017/18 i.e. £1,086,031.

3.2 Halton will also Healthy Pupils Capital Funding in 2018/19, which is as a result of £100m of revenue generated from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy. This funding is for one financial year only and is intended to improve access to facilities such as kitchens, dining facilities, changing rooms, playgrounds and sports facilities. Details of the amount that Halton will receive has not yet been announced, and an update will be provided once the allocation has been confirmed.

3.3 The Department for Education have also announced Special Provision Capital Funding for local authorities to invest in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities aged 0-25 to improve the quality and range of provision available to the Local Authority. The funding is for a range of provision types where this benefits children and young people with education, health and care (EHC) plans aged between 0 and 25 and will commence in 2018/19. The total funding allocation across all local authorities is £215M and Halton's allocation over a 3 year period is £500,000 (three payments of £166,666 each year if approved). Officers have reviewed current provision and identified the areas of greatest need, A consultation was launched in the first week of January with the relevant stakeholders including parents, carers, and educational institutions which offer special educational provision, and will determine how best to invest the capital funding over the three year period to maximise the benefit of provision. The Local Authority is then required to complete and publish its plan on the Council's Local Offer page by 14th March 2018, with continued updates in March 2019, March 2020, and March 2021. The Council's Executive Board will consider this report on 18th January 2018 and any capital expenditure proposals in a further report during Spring 2018.

- 3.4 Detailed in the table below is the funding available to support capital projects across the school estate:

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,086,031
School Condition Allocation – Voluntary Aided maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£849,061
Healthy Pupils Capital Funding Allocated to fund improvements to facilities such as kitchens, dining facilities, changing rooms, playgrounds and sports facilities.	TBC
Special Provision Capital Fund - 2018/19 allocation Allocated to fund new places and improvements to existing facilities for children and young people with Education Health Care (EHC) Plans. Total 3 year allocation is £500,000.	£166,667
Devolved Formula Capital – Local Authority maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated directly to Local Authority maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£245,495
Devolved Formula Capital – Voluntary Aided maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated directly to Voluntary Aided maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£160,034

4.0 School Condition Allocation funding.

- 4.1 The table below details how the School Condition funding will be allocated.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Computer Aided Design Plans	£2,500	Used to update plans of school buildings where improvement works have been carried out.
Kitchen gas safety / ventilation	£45,000	A rolling programme to address gas safety issues in school kitchens
Asbestos Management	£20,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Access Initiative Projects	£75,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£83,540	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year.
Capital Repairs	£897,204	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2018/19 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,123,244	

The total amount of £1,123,244 detailed above comprises £1,086,031 School Condition Allocation, together with a required total contribution from schools of circa £37,213. The figures are based at this time on current budget costs for the works.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects, and to ensure the Council has sufficient school places.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In October 2017 the DfE announced indicative capital allocations for 2018/19. The indicative capital allocation of funding for 2018/19 (£1,086,031) is the same as 2017/18. In the event that the allocation is reduced, the amount of funding available for elements of the programme will be reduced accordingly.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Capital Repairs Programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

The Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

N/A

8.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

8.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 Capital Repairs

It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of works. Whilst schools are aware of the proposed works, consultation with schools on their contribution to the proposed works will take place following the Council's consideration of the budget report in March 2018. If schools cannot or are not willing to contribute, any proposed projects will not be carried out in 2018/19.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to improve the accessibility of mainstream schools for pupils with disabilities and the wider community. Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.

Capital Repairs Programme 2018/19

Appendix 1

School	Works
Retentions	Various from 2017/18
Brookfields School	Roofing works
Brookvale Primary School	Electrical work (lighting & power wiring)
Castleview Primary School	Boiler replacement
Fairfield Primary School	M&E Contribution towards main capital works
Farnworth CE Primary School	Roofing works
Hallwood Park Primary	Windows
Halton Lodge Children Centre	Windows
Moore Primary School	Windows
Simms Cross Primary School	Roofing works
Simms Cross Primary School	Electrical work (lighting & power wiring)
Simms Cross Primary School	Windows
Spinney Avenue CE Primary School	Electrical work (lighting & power wiring)
The Bridge School	Electrical work (lighting & power wiring)
Victoria Road Primary School	Roofing works
Weston Point Primary	Roofing works
Woodside Primary School	Replacement pipework