

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 21st January 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education, & Social Care

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2021/22

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital funding received by the Council from central government to support capital works and programmes within schools for the 2021/22 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2021/22 is noted;**
- ii) The proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation are approved;**
- iii) The capital allocations are put forward for inclusion in the Budget report to full Council.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Department for Education has not yet announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2021/22, but given the timescales for some of the proposed capital projects, there is a requirement to present this report. The allocation stated in this report is based on the 2020/21 allocation which was £903,847. We are currently unsure if the Department for Education will adopt the same methodology as previous years, therefore for the purpose of planning the 2021/22 capital programme, the 2020/21 allocation figure has been used. In the event that the 2021/22 allocation is reduced, or in the event that a school converts to academy status which impacts on funding received by the Council, the amount of funding available for elements of the capital programme will be reduced accordingly.

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools i.e. community and voluntary controlled schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE BASED ON 2020/21)	£903,847
Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	

4.0 School Condition Allocation funding.

4.1 The table below details how the School Condition Allocation will be utilised.

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Asset Management - Computer Aided Design (CAD) Plans and Condition Surveys	£25,000	CAD plans of school buildings are updated where improvement works/changes to accommodation have been carried out. The condition surveys are essential in order to identify any condition issues and plan for future capital repair programmes
Asbestos Management	£12,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Accessibility projects	£50,000	Funding that schools can apply for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£76,847	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year.
Capital Repairs	£770,000	A programme of capital works undertaken at community and voluntary controlled schools, determined by the Local Authority, based upon a priority of need in discussion with schools and colleagues in Property Services.
Total	£933,847	

The total amount of £933,847 detailed above comprises £903,847 (based on 2020/21 School Condition Allocation), together with a required total contribution from schools (circa £30,000).

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the school environment through capital projects.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 In April 2020 the Department for Education announced the final capital allocations for 2020/21, for Halton this was £903,847. At the time of writing, the 2021/22 allocation has not yet been announced, and we are currently unsure if this will follow the same methodology as previous years, therefore for the purpose of planning the capital programme for 2021/22 the 2020/21 allocation figure has been used. In the event that the allocation is reduced, or should further schools convert to academy status which will also reduce the amount of funding the Local Authority receives, the amount of funding available for elements of the capital programme will be reduced accordingly.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Capital Repairs Programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by helping to produce 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 continue to improve the learning environment for children and young people.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

As above.

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. Consultation with schools on their contribution to any proposed works will take place following the Council's consideration of the budget report in March 2021. If schools cannot or are not willing to contribute, any proposed projects will not be carried out in 2021/22, and deferred for future years.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 The Accessibility funding provides capital funding to improve the accessibility of mainstream and special 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.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

11.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Not applicable.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13.1 Capital Programmes for 2021/22 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2021.

14.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Funding Allocations 2020/21 Department for Education 15/04/2020.	People Directorate	Catriona Gallimore