

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director, Children's Services

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Young People

**SUBJECT:** Capital Programme – 2023/24

**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 2023/24 financial year.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2023/24 is noted;**
- 2) the proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation are approved; and**
- 3) 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 School Condition Allocation (SCA) Capital Grant for 2023/24, 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 2022/23 allocation which was £747,836. We are currently unsure if the Department for Education will adopt the same methodology as last year, therefore for the purpose of planning the 2023/24 capital programme, the 2022/23 allocation figure has been used. In the event that the 2023/24 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:

<b>GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>	
<p><b>School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools i.e. community and voluntary controlled schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE BASED ON 2022/23)</b></p> <p>Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.</p>	£747,836
<p><b>Basic Need Capital Grant - balance as at September 2022</b></p> <p><b>No allocation for 2023/24 or 2024/25</b></p> <p>Allocated to support the provision of sufficient mainstream pupil places within the Local Authority.</p>	£278,185

#### 4.0 School Condition Allocation.

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

<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated costs</b>	<b>Description</b>
Asset Management - Computer Aided Design (CAD) Plans and Condition surveys	£12,000	CAD plans of school buildings are updated where improvement works/changes to accommodation have been carried out.  The condition surveys are carried out on a 5 yearly cycle as a rolling programme and are essential for identifying condition issues and planning for future capital repair programmes
Asbestos Management	£12,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Accessibility projects	£30,000	Funding that schools can apply for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£83,836	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year.
Capital Repairs	£610,000	A rolling 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.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£747,836</b>	

For any works undertaken within the Capital Repairs Programme, schools are normally required to make a contribution from their own Devolved Formula Capital allocation.

## **5.0 High Needs Provision Capital**

- 5.1 On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Department for Education announced that Halton would receive £1,771,998 in 2022/23 and £1,552,357 in 2023/24 giving a total budget of £3,324,355 High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA). This funding is to support the provision of new places or improve existing provision for pupils and students with high needs.
- 5.2 The Local Authority is currently consulting with schools with regard to proposals to expand some of its specialist provision within borough, and a further report will be submitted to the Executive Board outlining the proposals once confirmed.

## **6.0 Basic Need Capital Funding**

- 6.1 The Local Authority receives Basic Need funding from the Department for Education to assist in pupil place planning and ensure that there are sufficient pupil places. As there remains an overall surplus capacity, within agreed tolerance levels, in both the primary and secondary sector in Halton in terms of school places, the Council received no Basic Need Funding for 2023/24 & 2024/25.
- 6.2 The 2022/23 Basic Need Allocation of £278,185 is currently unallocated. However, as the Local Authority will not receive any Basic Need funding for the next two years, this will be carried forward to support any works required during the next two year period. Following a recent analysis of forecast and school capacity data, there is not an immediate pupil place Basic Need issue to address, but this position continues to be regularly monitored.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the school environment in mainstream and special school provision through capital projects, and to ensure that the Council can continue to offer in-borough special educational needs provision wherever possible, helping to reduce expensive out-borough placement and transport costs.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 In March 2022 the Department for Education announced that the 2022/23 School Condition Allocation for Halton was £747,835.99 which was less than 2021/22. The 2023/24 allocation has not yet been announced. For the purpose of planning the capital programme for 2023/24, the 2022/23 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.

## **9.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Capital Repairs Programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by helping to produce more energy efficient buildings.

## **10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **10.1 Children and Young People in Halton.**

The Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will continue to help improve the learning environment for children and young people, and support continuing demand for in-borough special educational needs provision, allowing Halton resident pupils to remain in-borough where possible.

### **10.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

As above.

### **10.3 A Healthy Halton**

N/A

### **10.4 A Safer Halton**

N/A

### **10.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

## **11.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

### **11.1 Capital Repairs**

It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of the Capital Repairs Programme. Consultation with schools on their contribution to any proposed works will take place following full Council's consideration of the budget report in March 2023. If schools cannot or are not willing to contribute, any proposed projects will not be carried out in 2023/24, and will be deferred for future years.

## **12.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

12.1 The Accessibility funding from the School Condition Allocation 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.

12.2 The HNPCA provides capital funding to deliver new places, supporting learning in both mainstream and special provision. It can also be used to improve the suitability and accessibility of existing building and go towards new special and AP free schools to help drive up standards in special

education.

### **13.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

13.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

### **14.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

14.1 None

### **15.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

15.1 Capital Programmes for 2023/24 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2023.

### **16.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Schools Capital Funding Allocations 2022/23 Department for Education 28/03/22	Children's Directorate	Catriona Gallimore
High Needs Provision Allocation 2022-24 Department for Education 29/03/22	Children's Directorate	Catriona Gallimore
Basic Need Capital Allocation announcement for school places in 2023-25. Department for Education 28/03/22	Children's Directorate	Catriona Gallimore