

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	4 APRIL 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON SCHOOLS CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To update Schools Forum on capital allocations to schools.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the allocations to Herefordshire for new pupil (basic need), maintenance of LA maintained schools, LCVAP allocations and school's devolved capital for 2014-15 be noted;**
- (b) progress with spending the basic need, maintenance and LCVAP for 2013/14 be noted; and**
- (c) the School Capital Strategy Consultative group be asked to consider the efficient and effective approach to these grants and report back to Schools Forum in July 2014.**

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as this is a report for information.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The government grant Local Authorities 3 separate funding streams for capital works. There should be an open and transparent approach to the amounts and their use, taking into account devolved capital as well.

Key Considerations

- 3 The allocations for 3 main grants are set out in the table below. The government has taken a two year approach to the new places basic need grant allocation.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
New Places Basic Need	£2,134,842	£807,190	£864,814		£634,384	£666,103
Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP)	£1,080,000	£950,000	£759,415	£747,864		
Maintenance	£2,695,522	£1,806,617	£1,717,412	£1,512,680		
Universal Infant Meals				£246,883 (LA schools) £83,986 (VA schools)		

- 4 The new places (basic need) allocation includes the development of provision across all state funded schools. While there is still an overall surplus of places there are a number of primary schools that are full. The Strategic Education Board and Capital Strategy Consultative group are developing a programme for looking at these issues.
- 5 There are no specific allocations for capital work linked to provision for children with special educational needs. £830,000 of basic needs funding has been allocated to Westfield School to meet the need for appropriate school, places for pupils with complex special educational needs. Several options for the use of this funding have been developed and are being considered with a decision about the way forward to be made shortly. This will increase capacity in the short term and ensure additional space for September 2014.
- 6 The pressures on special school places, particularly in light of there being no specific funding are being addressed by the Strategic Education Board and the Capital Strategy Consultative group.

- 7 The reduction in the maintenance grant allocation reflects the academy conversions. Academies access centrally retained academies maintenance fund (ACMF).
- 8 The maintenance work profiled in the budget for 2013/14 has been affected with the change of property service partner contractor from Amey to Integral. The work to complete the changes to the BMS Trend system is behind schedule as are a number of other agreed projects.
- 9 A document "Duties Associated With Running A School" has been developed and consulted upon and will be circulated before the Easter holiday to assist schools in being clear about their responsibilities particularly in relation to buildings.
- 10 A comprehensive agreed understanding of the condition of all LA maintained buildings is being informed by additional condition surveys that have been commissioned to ensure data is up to date. The Capital Strategy Consultative group will consider the data with a view to making recommendations about the programme in May 2014.
- 11 Progress with the work agreed in the report to Schools Forum on the 12th July 2013 is set out in appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Community Impact

- 12 Schools are a very important part of a community. Parents/carers want there to be a place available at their preferred school. The proposals to allocate the funding to support new places will be mindful of this.

Equality and Human Rights

- 13 There has been agreement about the sharing of costs associated with making provision for pupils with disabilities in schools as there is not specific budget for this purpose. A broader accessibility strategy is being developed to ensure best use is made of the resources available.

Financial Implications

- 14 The basic need and maintenance budgets are direct grants from the government allocated on a formula basis. Basic need funding is allocated by comparing forecast pupil numbers from the school capital survey (SCAP) data provided to capacity, with shortfalls attracting capital funding. Maintenance funding is allocated with reference to school census data using weighted pupil numbers adjusted by a location factor (to represent the local building cost) and adjusted further for modernised schools.
- 15 2014/15 has attracted a one-off capital grant funding for universal infant free school meals, this funding has been allocated based on pupil numbers and is for the expansion and improvement of facilities.
- 16 The LCVAP funding requires schools to make a 10% contribution to any scheme. The complexities of the LCVAP claim system are such that achieving a balanced year end budget can be difficult, schools are required to manage this risk through their cashflow.
- 17 The funding received is allocated to schemes through the school Capital Strategy Group and is detailed in the Appendices to this report.

Legal Implications

18 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

19 The risks are:

a) Failure of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places.

Reputational risk is associated with:

- Delivery of capital and maintenance schemes that are going to ensure sufficient school places and buildings that are in a good state of repair.
- Delivery of the schemes to the quality or in the time scales expected.

20 These risks are mitigated through consultation and discussion with members of the capital strategy working group to provide open clear communication with all schools. In addition high quality project management by the school capital team will continue to take place, informed by feedback from those having work undertaken.

21 With the current pupil population projections and the level of surplus of places in both the primary and secondary sector the failure to provide sufficient school places is considered low.

Consultees

22 There have been meetings and discussions held with Property Services, Diocesan representatives and representative head teachers (through the Capital Strategy Group).

Appendices

Appendix 1 – (Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme) LCVAP budget profile 2013/14

Appendix 2 - Basic Need Budget Profile 2013/15

Appendix 3 - Maintenance Budget Profile 2013/14

Appendix 4 – Detailed Maintenance Schedule 2013/14

Background Papers

None identified