

DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet
DECISION DATE:	15 October 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS 2015/16
REPORT BY:	SUFFICIENCY, PLANNING & CAPITAL INVESTMENT MANAGER

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is a Key Decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.

NOTICE has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To approve the proposed expenditure of capital grants for school building and maintenance work allocated to the council for the year 2015/16

Recommendation(s)

- a) that **£1.9m of school building improvements and maintenance works, be approved; and**
- b) **adjustments to the programme of works and budget allocation based on detailed quotations are delegated to the Head of Education Development.**

Alternative Options

- 1 That the maintenance grants supporting building work in schools are profiled differently or spent on different schemes.
- 2 The schemes have been determined from the latest condition survey reports for each school and information returned by schools in their 'duties associated with running a school' document. It has also been considered by the council's property services section, the capital strategy consultative group, involving head teachers and the

LCVAP (local authority co-ordinated voluntary aided programme) group, involving diocesan and arch-diocesan representatives. The proposed works are addressing known priorities.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3 Local authorities receive three separate funding streams from government for capital works: maintenance, basic need and LCVAP. Maintenance grants can only be spent on local authority maintained and voluntary controlled schools; LCVAP can only be applied to voluntary aided schools; and basic need grant is accessible by all schools. There is an open and transparent approach to the amounts of funding received and its expenditure, which this report provides. Academy and free schools have access to the education funding agencies condition improvement fund for building works, both maintenance and improvements.
- 4 There is a backlog of urgent and essential maintenance works at local authority maintained, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools. Based on the best information available these have been prioritised for action within available resources.
- 5 The schools capital investment strategy, due to be presented to council in December 2015 will inform where it is most appropriate to spend future grants.

Key Considerations

- 6 The council was informed of the grant allocation within this financial year and has worked through the prioritisation of schemes with the schools consultative group and the Diocese of Hereford.
- 7 There are a variety of funding streams to support capital works at schools. The national schools funding formula means all schools receive a relatively small devolved capital allocation to support minor maintenance or improvement works. Schools may convert revenue budgets to capital to assist with these works. Bigger maintenance schemes like the replacement of a roof, a new heating system or windows are funded through a central maintenance grant awarded to the council or via the academy/free school condition improvement fund. Denominational schools are given a separate LCVAP grant to support these larger schemes.
- 8 The council's wider duties and responsibilities associated with the wellbeing of children and the oversight of its estate are such that it maintains assurances that schools are undertaking their maintenance duties. The council annually asks governors of all schools to complete a document entitled 'duties associated with running a school'. The document sets out necessary health and safety checks and other maintenance work that should be routinely undertaken.
- 9 The planned maintenance 2015/16 is the known essential work that needs to be undertaken. An outline of scope and the forecast cost is set out below:

10 The proposed expenditure profile is:

Maintenance Expenditure 2015/16		
	£k	
LA Planned Maintenance	497	See school detail in appendix a
Maintenance Fees	50	
Safeguarding Work including Fees	200	
Contingency Emergency Works	94	
Condition Reports	20	
DDA Adaptations	150	
Broadlands / Aylestone Scheme	120	Maintenance avoidance contribution to scheme
Contribution to Colwall	84	
Total	1.215	
Government grant to LA school	1.215	
LCVAP Expenditure 2015/16		
LCVAP Planned Maintenance Works 2015/16	645	See school detail in appendix b
Works Carried Forward from 2014/15	20	
Sub Total	665	
LCVAP Grant 2015/16 (100% figure)	665	

- 11 The expenditure per school is set out in appendices a and b. The fees required for this work are estimated to average 10%. These works can stretch over more than one financial year and capital funding is used across a number of years to support such schemes. The Department for Education informs the council of its allocation at different times in the year.
- 12 The council is constantly reviewing the safeguarding arrangements at all its schools to ensure they meet current expectations. In 2013/14 the council was expected to rectify fencing that was considered a potential safeguarding risk. Since then, each year an allocation has been set aside to address any unplanned safeguarding issues that arise during the year.
- 13 It is not always possible to foresee all schemes that need to be undertaken in any one year. An element of funding therefore is set aside to cover such events that cannot wait to be included in a future years funding.
- 14 In order to ensure the works at schools are properly targeted it is important that accurate and up to date condition surveys are undertaken All schools, excluding academies and free schools are therefore included in a five year rolling programme of condition surveys.
- 15 The council has a duty to ensure that any child with special needs attending a mainstream school can be reasonably accommodated. This may result in a requirement for provide additional facilities either in terms of equipment or buildings. An element of funding, has been set aside to meet this duty.
- 16 There are proposals to support the newly federated Aylestone Business and Enterprise College and Broadlands primary schools. As part of the funding package for the scheme an additional funding allowance from 2015/16 has been made in accordance with cabinet and council decisions.

- 17 There was a unique situation at Colwall CE primary with water ingress. It was agreed that the school would decant into temporary buildings. A significant portion of the council maintenance grant needed to be allocated to support the temporary relocation.

Community Impact

- 18 Schools are a key part of communities and as such it is important they are well maintained.

Equality and Human Rights

- 19 The proposed schemes have given due consideration to equality issues particularly in relation to disability. The council maintains a disability access scheme and carries out works to support this.

Financial Implications

- 20 The £1.9m of expenditure in the report will be funded by a maintenance grant of £1.2m and a £0.7m local authority co-ordinated voluntary aided grant from government.

Legal Implications

- 21 Herefordshire council has a duty to provide and support places of education that are both fit for purpose and health and safety compliant. The proposals set out in this report support the council in meeting these legal duties.
- 22 Failure to make repairs to known defects, such as those set out in this report, increases the risk to the council of litigation from matters arising from these defects.

Risk Management

- 23 Without undertaking the maintenance programme more children will be attending schools with defects including those that are considered significant health and safety concerns. This programme will address the highest known risks within the funding available.
- 24 The council needs to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the condition of its schools to mitigate the need for emergency maintenance work. This is being addressed through the creation of a schools capital investment strategy and monitoring of schools completion of their 'duties associated with running a school' document.
- 25 The risk is that final scheme costs could be significantly above or below the forecast. All schemes will be monitored by the capital strategy consultative group and a capital project board with officers from education, commissioning and property services. The board will meet monthly to review schemes. Any required adjustments to the programme and budget allocation will be agreed through the contract governance arrangements with the decision delegated to the Head of Education Development, to approve the amendments while remaining within the overall forecast.

Consultees

- 26 A LCVAP group with diocesan and arch-diocesan representation meet at least termly and have considered the prioritisation of schemes. The capital strategy consultative group, with a number of head teachers, diocesan representation and property services officers meet at least termly and have agreed the outline proposals as a constructive way forward for use of the grants.

Appendices

Appendix A – 2015/16 Individual School Projects - LA Planned Maintenance

Appendix B - 2015/16 Individual School Projects - LCVAP Planned Maintenance Works
2015/16

Background Papers

- None identified.