

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
MEETING DATE:	12 July 2013

TITLE OF REPORT:	SCHOOL CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2013/2014
REPORT BY:	INTERIM HEAD OF SUFFICIENCY AND CAPITAL COMMISSIONING.

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

To note and endorse the proposed approach to expenditure and accountability of the Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP), Basic Need Capital and Maintenance budgets.

5. Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **The projected spending outlined in appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 be supported;**
- (b) **The annual “Trend” heat maintenance system costs, previously charged to the Capital Maintenance budget, are charged to individual schools on a full cost recovery basis with allowance in 2013/14 budget for schools opting out to install their preferred system; and**
- (c) **The Local Authority’s approach to monitoring and quality-assuring the duties associated with running a building be supported.**

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The profile of the spending in each of the appendices is different. Discussion in meetings of the Capital Strategy Working group and the LCVAP consultative group concluded these are the best options.

- 6.2 Consideration is given to further delegation of the Capital Maintenance budget. This was deferred for this financial year due to uncertainty about the validity of the data and uncertainty of the Government approach in future years, given that it has commissioned an independent survey of all schools.
- 6.3 The allowance in the maintenance budget for costs linked to schools wishing to cease being part of the of “Trend” heat management system be met by the schools themselves.. There are variations to the costs associated with making the necessary adaptations; this may unreasonably influence a decision about whether to continue with the system or not.
- 6.4 To continue with the current accountability arrangements for the duties associated with running schools. While recognising the different levels and types of accountability in different schools and not wanting to introduce unnecessary bureaucracy the overall understanding to ensure Local Authority accountability is missing. The Local Authority has an overall duty of care to all children and young people in Herefordshire and if it is has responsibility for services provided to them it must make proportional effort to ensure standards are met.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 To provide a clear open approach with accountability to the use of capital and maintenance budgets and duties associated with running a school.

8. Key Considerations

- 8.1 There are a variety of funding streams supporting capital and maintenance work in schools. The council has three main allocations:

- i) New Pupil Places (Basic Need) – This is applicable to all state funded schools and its purpose has been more sharply defined so to only support the creation of additional schools places. The allocation this year is for two years (2013 – 2015) and is based on a formula linking forecast pupil numbers and the capacity of schools. The grant for the 2013- 2015 is £ 864,814, this compares with £807,000 for 2012/13 and £2,154,000 for 2011/12.
- ii) Locally Coordinated Voluntary Aided Programme. (LCVAP) is for voluntary aided schools to maintain their estate. Works are agreed with the Diocese of Hereford and Archdiocese of Cardiff. The 2013/14 allocation is £759,000 compared with £950,000 in 2012/13 and £1,080,000 in 2011/12.
- iii) Local Authority maintenance allocation is for Community, Voluntary Controlled, and Foundation and Trust schools to address building condition issues. The 2013/14 allocation is £1,717,412. This compares with £1,807,000 in 2012/13 and £2,696,000 in 2011/12.

Some of the changes reflect the conversion of schools to academies. Maintenance and capital allocations to academies are considered by central government departments.

- 8.2 Schools receive, through the Local Authority, Devolved Formula Capital money for improvements to buildings and other facilities, including ICT, or capital repairs/refurbishment. Decisions about its use are made by each school. The allocation is based on a lump sum of £4000 (£4320 in VA schools) and £11.25 (12.15 VA) per primary pupil, £16.875 (18.23 VA) per secondary pupil and £33.75 (36.45) per special school or PRU pupil.

- 8.3 There is no specific allocation for work associated with children and young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD). The creation of special school places is deemed to be mainly attributable to the New Pupil Places allocation. Schemes for individual children who need specialist facilities that require capital work are proportioned across the three funding streams by size of the budget.
- 8.4 While there are some minor pressures for primary school places in some parts of the County, overall there are significant surplus places in both primary and secondary schools. There is however pressure to provide more special school places, particularly in the north of the County.
- 8.5 The 2012/13 budget profile suggested a number of projects that needed further work and consideration; these included PAN reduction schemes. The clarity of the 2013/15 criteria for New Place spending (Basic Need) and the reduction in allocation mean these cannot be taken forward.
- 8.6 The BMS trend system is installed in approximately 45 schools across the County.
- 8.7 The responsibilities associated with running schools to ensure they are in a fit state and that the duties relating to health safety and welfare are met, are considerable. There are different levels and routes of accountability given the different types of school, (Academy, LA maintained, etc.). The Local Authority however has an overarching duty of care to all children and young people as well as specific responsibilities for LA maintained schools. In order to discharge these duties it is developing an accountability framework for all schools, differentiating the differing levels of responsibilities. This will provide a check for the undertaking of routine maintenance and health and safety duties as well as a high level understanding of the maintenance and capacity issues. This will need to be signed off by Governors and the head teacher.
- 8.8 Representatives from schools have requested openness and transparency about schemes funded through these budgets. There have been expressions of concern about the interpretation of criteria in the past and some perception of an a times arbitrary nature of some decisions
- 8.9 Consideration was given to the allocation of funding to provide of SEN equipment. This is usually transferable and individual pupil determined. This expenditure is to accounted through the High Needs block of funding.

9. Community impact

- 9.1 Schools are a very important part of a community and as such should be maintained to an appropriate standard. These proposals are about ensuring the highest standards possible with the available resources.

10. Equality and Human Rights

- 10.1 The proposals to invest in new special school places and share the costs proportionately across available budgets for schemes in support of children with disabilities is reflective of the duties in the Equality and Human Rights Act. The proposals do not affect others with protected characteristics under the Act.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The proposals are related to direct grants from the Government. There are no Corporate liabilities.

- 11.2 The trend system, changes to school building layouts and equipment for pupils are to be met through schools budgets.
- 11.3 Exceptional SEN equipment will be met through the High Needs block of funding.

12. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1
- a) Failure of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places.
 - b) 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.
- 13.2 These risks are mitigated through consultation and discussion with members of the capital strategy working group.
- 13.3 Open clear communication with all schools.
- 13.4 High quality project management by School capital team
- 13.5 Feedback from those having work undertaken.
- 13.6 With the current pupil population projections and the level of surplus of places in both the primary and secondary sector this is considered low.

14. Consultees

- 14.1 There have been meetings and discussions held with Property Services, Diocesan Representatives and representative head teachers through the Capital Strategy Group. An additional meeting of the capital strategy group was convened to increase the number of head teacher representatives, 8 head teacher representatives attended.

15. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Budget profile for LCVAP 2013/14
- Appendix 2 – Budget profile for New school Places (Basic Need) 2013-15
- Appendix 3 – Budget profile for capital maintenance.(2013/14)
- Appendix 4 – Summary of maintenance surveys and expenditure for schools over 2 years
- Appendix 5 – Summary of DDA compliance Schemes

16. **Background Papers**

- Minutes of the LCVAP meeting 8th April 2013
- Minutes of the Capital Strategy group
- DfE guidance on capital

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/funding/a00202906/devolved-capital12-13>

Appendix 1

LCVAP Budget profile 2013/14

2013/2014 budget allocation	759,415	90% allocation
2013/2014 schools contribution	84,379	
Carry Forward	0	

Item	Amount £	Comments
DDA adaptations	90,000	
St Francis - drainage	52,000	
Weston-under-Penyard - roof repairs	30,000	
Leintwardine - heating	75,000	
Cradley - boiler	23,000	
St James Hereford - gable work	35,000	
St James Hereford - boilers	90,000	
St Thomas Cantilupe - roof & health & safety	50,000	
Kimbolton - roof and heater	30,000	
Pembridge - lighting	6,000	
Pencombe - stone works	18,000	
Bishops - windows, roof works etc	344,794	
Total	843,794	
Balance	0	

Appendix 2

Basic Need Budget profile 2013/15

2013/2015 budget allocation	864,814
Carry Forward	438,032

Item	Amount £	Comments
Leominster primary school 2013/14	176,000	
Leominster primary school 2014/15	176,000	
DDA adaptations	45,000	
Contingency	75,000	
Westfield	830,846	
Total	1,302,846	
Balance	0	

Maintenance Budget profile 2013/14

2013/2014 budget allocation	1,717,412
Carry Forward	0

Item	Amount £	Comments
Allocation to Leominster school	83,292	Maintenance avoidance
Planned maintenance	901,300	See 2 year summary sheet
Planned maintenance fees at 15%	135,195	
Contingency for planned maintenance	130,000	Includes Legionella works
Condition reports at £3000	36,000	
DDA adaptations	180,000	
Mobile replacements	84,000	Fairfield replacement £75k; St Peters removal £9k
Trend costs for year 2013/14	40,000	
Trend removal costs includes survey and works	40,000	Assuming £1,500 per school for 41 schools (15 academies using trend)
Trend removal cost fees at 15%	6,000	
Maintenance avoidance	40,000	transfer to capital or basic need programmes
Overall contingency	41,625	
Total	1,717,412	
Balance	0	

Appendix 4

School (non LCVAP)	Date of condition report	Property Services priorities 2013/14	Property Services Priorities 2014/15
Almeley Primary School	20/12/2011		5,000
Bredenbury Primary School	15/01/2009		
St Peter's Primary School, Bromyard	24/11/2011	30,500	15,000
Clifford Primary School	30/03/2004		
Ewyas Harold Primary School	23/11/2006	11,000	
Garway Primary School	06/03/2012	75,000	7,000
Broadlands Primary School	01/11/2012		6,000
Hampton Dene Primary School	14/11/2009	93,000	93,000
Marlbrook Primary School	19/12/2006		
St Martin's Primary School	18/12/2006	50,000	125,000
Trinity Primary School	10/01/2007	132,500	132,500
Kington Primary School	16/11/2005	50,000	5,000
Ledbury Primary School	08/12/2006		15,500
Leominster Infants' School	27/04/2004		
Leominster Junior School	19/09/2007		
Longtown Primary School	11/10/2006	6,000	
Luston Primary School	01/11/2011		
Madley Primary School	09/11/2006	8,500	
Marden Primary School	25/11/2008		
Michaelchurch Escley Primary School	07/12/2006	20,000	
Peterchurch Primary School	31/10/2006	46,000	69,000
Ashfield Park Primary School	02/11/2006	59,000	40,000
Shobdon Primary School	09/11/2006		

School (non LCVAP)	Date of condition report	Property Services priorities 2013/14	Property Services Priorities 2014/15
Stoke Prior Primary School	15/01/2009		
St Weonards Primary School	01/11/2011	5,500	
Walford Primary School	11/10/2006		
Wellington Primary School	01/11/2011	50,000	16,000
Weobley Primary School	26/09/2007		
Withington Primary School	01/12/2011		
Bosbury C E Primary School	27/09/2007		
Burley Gate C E Primary School	17/12/2008	18,500	21,500
Clehonger C E Primary School	19/10/2006	12,000	
Colwall C E Primary School	01/05/2011	32,000	15,000
St Mary's C E Primary School, Credenhill	25/02/2010	65,500	26,000
Eardisley C E Primary School	01/12/2012	26,300	40,000
Eastnor Parochial Primary School	16/10/2007		
Goodrich C E Primary School	14/09/2007		
Gorsley Goffs Endowed Primary School	01/12/2011	25,000	47,000
Little Dewchurch CE Primary School	17/10/2006		
Mordiford C E Primary School	29/11/2006		
Much Birch C E Primary School	01/08/2007		8,000
Orleton C E Primary School	16/01/2009		
Whitbourne C E Primary School	22/01/2009		
Riverside Primary School	-	19,000	
Aylestone High School BEC	01/09/2012		
Earl Mortimore	06/10/2006		
Fairfield High School	11/12/2008	25,000	17,000
Weobley High School	01/11/2011	41,000	150,000
Blackmarston Special School	14/11/2006		

Further information on the subject of this Report is available from
Andy Hough, Interim Head of Sufficiency and Capital Commissioning on Tel (01432) 260920

School (non LCVAP)	Date of condition report	Property Services priorities 2013/14	Property Services Priorities 2014/15
Westfield Special School	11/12/2009		
Brookfield Special School	01/09/2007		
The Priory Centre PRU	02/02/2007		
St Davids Centre PRU	08/06/2004		
The Aconbury Centre	11/09/2007		
Total		901,300	853,500

Appendix 5

Summary of Disability Discrimination Act schemes

Proportional allocation based on size of budget (£45k from Basic Need, £180k from Maintenance and 90K)	£315,000
Scheme	
Lugwardine hygiene & physio rooms	115,000
Gorsley Goffs hygiene room	40,000
Much Marcle physio room	60,000
St Mary's RC High hygiene room & DDA works	100,000
	£315,000