

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 January 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Capital Programme 2017-18 and Basic Need

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2017/18 for the People Directorate.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the capital funding available for 2017/18 is noted;**
- 2) the proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation are approved;**
- 3) Council is recommended to approve the Capital Programme 2017/18, and**
- 4) the proposal for the provision of an additional classroom at Lunts Heath Primary School is approved.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In February 2015 the Department for Education announced the schools Capital grant allocations for 2015/16 as well as indicative allocations for the two year period 2016/17 and 2017/18. By introducing three year allocations, the Department for Education are enabling those responsible for the school estate to plan effectively and make strategic investment decisions.

3.2

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,097,372

School Condition Allocation – Voluntary Aided maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£849,061
Devolved Formula Capital – Local Authority maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated directly to Local Authority maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£249,160
Devolved Formula Capital – Voluntary Aided maintained schools (INDICATIVE FIGURE) Allocated directly to Voluntary Aided maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£160,407

4.0 SCHOOL CONDITION ALLOCATION FUNDING

4.1 The table below details how the School Condition funding will be allocated:

Description	Estimated costs	Description
Computer Aided Design Plans	£5,000	Used to update plans of school buildings where improvement works have been carried out.
Kitchen gas safety / ventilation	£50,000	A rolling programme to address gas safety issues in school kitchens
Asbestos Management	£20,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Access Initiative Projects	£75,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£99,730	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Capital Repairs	£883,000	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2017/18 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,132,730	

The total amount of £1,132,730 detailed above comprises £1,097,372 School Condition Allocation, together with a required total contribution from schools of circa £35,358. The figures are based at this time on current budget costs for the works.

4.2 In previous years the Local Authority has also allocated £345,821 from the Dedicated Schools Grant under the heading Capital Expenditure Revenue Account Funding (CERA). This funding was used by the Local Authority to make a contribution towards capital works in schools. Under National Funding Formula proposals the Department for Education (DfE) have advised Local Authorities that this will no longer be permissible.

5.0 **ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM AT LUNTS HEATH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

5.1 Local Authority receives Basic Need funding from the Department for Education to assist in pupil place planning. Basic Need funding is made available to Local Authorities to ensure sufficient pupil places. The total funding still available in 2017/2018 is £943,346. To ease existing capacity issues at Lunts Heath Primary School, and to provide additional places going forward in east Widnes, it is recommended that an additional classroom is provided. This will assist with current school organisation issues and allow for an increase in the School's overall capacity once the building works are complete. If agreed, the School's Published Admission Number will increase from 50 places per year group to 60 places per year group, increasing the school's overall capacity from 350 to 420, thereby providing an additional 70 primary school places in east Widnes.

5.2 The works will be funded from Basic Need with costs estimated at circa £200,000. The Local Authority has already sought Section 77 approval from the Department for Education, which was approved by the Department on 10th October 2016. Section 77 (of the School Standards & Framework Act 1998) approval is needed when a Local Authority propose a change in use of playing fields (including playground/hard standing ground) used by schools.

5.3 If the Executive Board agrees to the proposed works at Lunts Heath, planning permission will then be sought.

6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects, and to ensure the Council has sufficient school places.

7.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 In February 2015 the DfE announced indicative capital allocations for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as part of a three year announcement covering 2015 to 2018. The indicative capital allocation of funding for 2017/18 (£1,097,372) is the same as 2016/17. In the event that the allocation is reduced, the amount of funding available for elements of the programme will be reduced accordingly. The cost of works at Lunts Heath Primary School will be funded through Basic Need.

7.2 The Capital Repairs Programme will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings. Approval of the proposed additional classroom at Lunts Heath Primary ensures the Council's duty

to ensure sufficient school places.

8.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

8.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

8.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

8.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

8.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

8.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 Capital Repairs - It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of works. Whilst schools are aware of the proposed works, consultation with schools on their contribution to the proposed works will take place following Council approval. If schools are not willing to contribute, any proposed projects will not be carried out in 2017/18. In the event that schools are unable to contribute towards the cost of the works when completed, an element of the contingency budget can be used for this purpose, providing the school commit to making their financial contribution in the next financial year.

10.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

10.1 The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to improve the accessibility of mainstream 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**

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

12.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not applicable.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Capital Programmes for 2017/18 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2017. If the proposed works at Lunts Heath Primary School are approved, and planning permission is agreed, it is anticipated that any works undertaken would be completed in the 2017/18 academic year.

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 2015-2018; Department for Education 12/05/2016.	Rutland House	Catriona Gallimore