

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 14 March 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion & Provision

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2016/17

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2016/17 for the People and Economy Directorate and confirmed capital allocations from the Department for Education.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the capital funding available for 2016/17 be noted.**

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. In February 2016 the Department confirmed the 2016/17 allocations. 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.

The table below details the confirmed funding notified by the Department for Education on 12th February 2016 for 2016/17.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
School Condition Allocation – Local Authority maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,097,372
School Condition Allocation – Voluntary Aided maintained schools Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£849,061

GOVERNMENT FUNDING	
Devolved Formula Capital – Local Authority maintained schools 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 Allocated directly to Voluntary Aided maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£160,407
LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING	
Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding In addition to the funding outlined above, the Local Authority makes a contribution towards capital works in schools (level of funding to be confirmed).	£345,821

4.0 School Condition Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding.

4.1 The table below details how the School Condition and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account 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 (determined and undertaken by LA)
Fire Compartmentation	£38,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings (determined and undertaken by LA).
Asbestos Management	£20,000	Annual update of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works (determined and undertaken by LA).
Access Initiative Projects	£70,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings (to be released following closure of School Modernisation).

Description	Estimated costs	Description
School Modernisation Projects	£375,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve educational and school buildings development.
Contingency	£84,875	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year.
Fairfield Primary School	£125,000	Contribution to remodelling and extension works.
Weston Point Primary School	£30,000	Contribution towards additional classroom.
Capital Repairs	£730,241	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2016/17 can be found in Appendix 1.
Total	£1,478,116	

Schools are required to make a contribution to the cost of any capital repair works. Based on proposed works and estimated costs, this is estimated to be £34,923.

5.0 School Modernisation Projects

5.1 Community and voluntary controlled schools are currently being invited to bid for School Modernisation Funding. This funding is in place to enable schools to carry out refurbishment building projects that enhance the school accommodation. Schools may wish to address building improvements such as classroom and outdoor learning, toilets, and improvements to kitchen and dining areas. Voluntary Aided Schools and academy/Free Schools will need to contact their responsible body to seek appropriate funding.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects.

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 actual capital allocation of funding for 2016/17 of £1,097,372 was confirmed on 12th February 2016. CERA funding has been confirmed by Council.

8.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Capital repairs programme

This will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and 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.

9.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

N/A.

9.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

9.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

10.0 RISK ANALYSIS

10.1 Risk assessments are undertaken on all programmed capital works.

11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

11.1 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.