

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

### **DELEGATED EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REPORT**

**Report to:** Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Children's Social Care  
**Date:** 23 April 2020  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Corporate Director, Children's Services

#### **Report Title**

**Education Capital Maintenance Report 2020/21 – Part 1**

#### **Summary**

This report highlights the Council's investment plans in the Education portfolio for the next financial year.

To support Trafford's corporate priorities of ensuring a fair start for all children and young people and supporting our residents when they need it most. Enabling pupils to thrive and achieve their educational outcomes through fit for purpose and high quality learning environments.

The Council also has a general duty under Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide a safe working environment and hence respond to condition issues, which have health and safety implications.

To support the achievement of this duty, and to meet any risks in relation to school conditions and access, the Council is awaiting DfE funding announcement but has assumed a similar level of DfE funding as in 2019/20 and hence has an indicative allocation of £1.764m for Capital Maintenance for 2020/21.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Executive Member agree the proposals contained within this report as the detailed capital programme for 2020/21, specifically -

1. Agree to carry out condition and access work detailed in Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Capital Maintenance Programme, Table 1

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Claire Fisher, Schools' Capital Projects Manager  
Extension: 912 4558

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	Ensuring a fair start for all children and young people Supporting our residents when they need it most
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	Not applicable
Financial	The estimated capital cost of the schemes, now recommended for approval in Appendix A, is £1.761m which can be financed by capital grant from the DfE shown in Section 2.
Legal Implications:	The Council has statutory duties in relation to the provision of school and early education places. Building closures affect this duty.
Equality/Diversity Implications	Schools are subject to current legislation regarding Equality and Diversity. Capital Maintenance monies funds schemes to ensure Schools are DDA compliant.
Sustainability Implications	School buildings are procured requiring successful contractors to meet required sustainability criteria. Building improvements will reduce both energy usage and carbon emissions.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	School buildings are assets that need to be maintained
Risk Management Implications	Operational risk of buildings closing if capital maintenance works not undertaken
Health & Wellbeing Implications	The condition of School buildings affects the Health and Wellbeing of all staff and pupils.
Health and Safety Implications	All building work is subject to appropriate current Health and Safety/CDM regulations. Failure to respond to condition issues, which have health and safety implications, will find the Council in breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Council's programme of asset management surveys has been used to identify, as a priority, any health and safety and condition issues that need to be addressed. As the majority of large capital maintenance works are carried out in summer school holidays it is necessary to seek approval for these schemes, so that the design, planning and tendering of these schemes can be carried out ready for schools to re-open in September 2020.
- 1.2 There have been a number of emergency capital maintenance schemes that have required funds from the 2019-20 unallocated sum of £287k and savings on other schemes. They are outlined in the Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Table 1a and total £68k.
- 1.3 There are significant condition issues within the Secondary sector and as such feasibility studies have been undertaken to develop a long term strategy for these schools. Additional support has been sought from Department of Education in order to support the outcome of the feasibility studies but has not been forthcoming. Bids to the DfE will be undertaken as and when capital funding bidding rounds are announced.
- 1.4 Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects sets out the general health and safety condition works deemed as the highest priority, and shows the sources of funding that will be used to meet the cost.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The projects proposed in this report are at the budget estimate stage and are yet to be fully costed, the estimated capital expenditure of £1.761m (of which £0.068m was used for emergency capital maintenance scheme during 2019-20) and can be financed from the following funding streams;
  - Capital Maintenance Grant - £2.161m being £1.764m from the DfE for 2020/21 plus an unallocated balance of £397k.  
(The level of DfE funding for 2020-21 is yet to be notified and is therefore based on the 2019-20 allocation)
- 2.2 If the allocation for 2020/21 differs to the assumptions reported adjustments will be made to the programme utilising the un-allocated balance of £400k.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 Following a thorough analysis of the options it is recommended to proceed with the following:
  - a) Urgent health and safety works in order to keep schools open i.e. replacement boilers, rewires, re-roofs, replacement of windows, disabled access works. Priorities are evidenced using schools' Asset Management Plan. (See Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools)

- b) Following the inspection of cupolas (decorative features on the top of roofs) at numerous Schools. The requirement for urgent repair works to cupolas was tabled at the Education Buildings meeting on 15 January 2020.

#### **4. Legal Position**

- 4.1 The Council has a general responsibility for education under Section 13 and 13A of the Education Act 1996 to both contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education to meet the needs of the population of their area and to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential.
- 4.2 Under the Children and Families Act 2014 Section 27 the Council has a duty to keep education and care provision under review and consider the extent to which the provision is sufficient to meet the educational needs, training need and social care needs of the children and young people concerned.
- 4.3 In addition Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the Council to secure special educational provision in accordance with a child's or young person's Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 4.4 The Council has a general duty under Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to provide a safe working environment and hence respond to condition issues, which have health and safety implications.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1 The implications of not progressing with the capital maintenance schemes are that there will be health and safety issues for schools that could potentially close the schools for a period whilst urgent remedial works are undertaken.
- 5.2 The majority of large capital maintenance works are carried out in summer school holidays it is necessary to seek approval for these schemes, so that the design, planning and tendering of these schemes can be carried out ready for schools to re-open in September 2020 with minimum disruption to pupils and staff. The procurement process aids competition and ensures resources are used in a planned and efficient manner.
- 5.3 The Capital Maintenance grant is not ring-fenced and could be used for other Council priorities; however it works towards meeting the Council's Corporate Priorities of "Ensuring a fair start for all children and young people" and "Supporting our residents when they need it most".

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 Consultation has been carried out with Amey Surveyors to draft a list of proposed projects. This process is overseen by the Education Buildings Group.

## 7. Reasons for Recommendation

- 7.1 To ensure compliance with the Council's statutory duties as highlighted in Section 4 - Legal Position.
- 7.2 To enhance educational facilities in Trafford schools for children and young people.
- 7.3 To support Trafford's corporate priorities of "Ensuring a fair start for all children and young people" and "Supporting our residents when they need it most" by ensuring that pupils are able to thrive and achieve their educational outcomes through fit for purpose and high quality learning environments.

**Key Decision:** No

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** N/A

### Exempt Information

By virtue of Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order, the following information has been excluded from Part 1 of this report and included in Part 2 of the report:

- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

In all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**Finance Officer Clearance** *(type in initials)...PC.....*

**Legal Officer Clearance** *(type in initials)...TR.....*

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** *(electronic)*



To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Corporate Director has cleared the report prior to issuing to the Executive Member for decision.

## Appendix A – Proposed Capital Projects

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME – TABLE 1		£m
Allocation c/f from previous report		0.287
Savings / Overspends on 2019-20 schemes		0.110
2020-21 allocation (assumed same level as 2019-20)		1.764
<b>Total Allocation</b>		<b>2.161</b>
School	Work	Estimated Cost £m
<b>Numerous Schools</b>	Urgent repair works to cupolas (decorative features on top of roofs) following inspection	
<b>Sale High</b>	Re-roofing works	
<b>Cloverlea Primary</b>		
<b>Springfield Primary</b>		
<b>Springfield Primary</b>	Replacement boiler or pipework schemes	
<b>Seymour Park Primary</b>		
<b>Firs Primary</b>		
<b>Victoria Park Infant</b>	Rewire	
<b>Flixton Primary</b>	Replacement fire alarm system to both Infant and Junior blocks	
<b>Stretford Grammar</b>	Kitchen ventilation upgrade	
<b>Firs Primary</b>	Replacement of asbestos flooring	
<b>St Matthews Primary</b>	Safeguarding works - fencing	
<b>Schools Accessibility</b>	Top up funding for any adaptations to comply with DDA.	
<b>Schools Health &amp; Safety monies</b>	Top up funding for any emergency health and safety schemes during the year.	
		<b>£m</b>
<b>Total Cost of schemes to be approved</b>		<b>1.761</b>
<b>Total Allocation Available</b>		<b>2.191</b>
<b>Balance still to allocate</b>		<b>0.400</b>
Schools' Devolved Formula Capital contributions - not included in the costs above		