

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

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

**Report to:** Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Children's Services  
**Date:** 23 March 2021  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Corporate Director, Children's Services

#### **Report Title**

**Education Capital Maintenance Report 2021/22 – Part I**

#### **Summary**

This report highlights the Council's further investment plans in the Education portfolio for the 2021/22 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 2020/21 and hence has an indicative allocation of £1.794m for Capital Maintenance for 2021/22.

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

That the Executive Member agree the proposals contained within this report as the detailed capital programme for 2021/22, 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 £2.400m 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.
Carbon Reduction	Improving the quality of our School buildings helps to reduce energy and carbon consumption.
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**

### **Condition Works**

- 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 2021.
- 1.2 Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, Table 1 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, which are summarised in 2. Financial Implications below. The estimated cost of each individual item is set out in Appendix A in Part 2 of this report.
- 1.3 In addition to the proposed works, 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.

## **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 is £2.523m and can be financed from the following funding streams;
  - Capital Maintenance Grant - £1.794m being from the indicative DfE grant for 2021/22 plus an unallocated balance of £729k carried forward from 2020/21 grant allocation.

## **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 roofs, replacement boilers and other urgent H&S works. Priorities are evidenced using schools' Asset Management Plan. (See Appendix A: Proposed Capital Projects, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools)
  - b) The prospective schemes have been overseen by Education Buildings Group and were circulated on 22 March 2021.

## **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 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** .....PC.....

**Legal Officer Clearance** .....TR.....

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



Jill McGregor  
Corporate Director of Children's Services

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		0.366
Savings / Overspends on 2020-21 schemes		0.363
2021-22 additional DfE allocation		1.794
<b>Total Allocation</b>		<b>2.523</b>
School	Work	Estimated Cost £m
Sale High	Main school heating boilers and re-pipe	
Woodheys Primary	New Boiler	
Delamere	New Boiler	
Victoria Park Juniors	New Boiler	
Heyes Lane Primary	Insulation to reception classrooms	
Heyes Lane Primary	Replacement doors and windows	
Moorlands Junior	Replacement corridor flooring	
Trafford Alternative Education Provision	Replacement flat roof	
Cloverlea Primary	Flat roof conversion	
Lostock College	Replacement Roof coverings - A block roof	
Delamere	Additional contribution for pool scheme	
Wellfield Infant	Safeguarding issues with WC	
Stretford High	Windows - additional funding to support 1st phase	
Healthy & Safety – Top-up	Top up an emergency fund for throughout the year	
		£m
<b>Total Cost of schemes to be approved</b>		<b>2.400</b>
<b>Total Allocation Available</b>		<b>2.523</b>
<b>Balance still to allocate</b>		<b>0.123</b>
Schools' Devolved Formula Capital contributions - not included in the costs above		