

School Capital Allocation

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the additional Devolved Formula Capital allocation from the Department for Education (DfE).
- Note the seven schools included within the DfE School Rebuilding Programme.
- Note the investment of £100k of Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funding for the School Condition Survey Programme.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. The DfE makes two condition capital allocations to schools and Responsible Bodies (Local Authorities). These are:
- School Condition. Schools and Responsible Bodies receive a Capital Allocation (SCA) annually to keep buildings safe and in good working order. The amount allocated by the DfE to Local Authorities uses a calculation based on pupil numbers on roll. **The amount allocated to Sheffield for 2021-22 was £3.6m and in 2022-23 this reduces to £3.5m** which takes into account the anticipated transfer of schools and associated pupil numbers to academy status.
 - Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), which is passported directly to schools to manage their property and maintenance needs (local authorities receive the DFC payment for SCC maintained schools but then pass on to the individual schools). The formula is based on a lump sum plus a variable amount based on pupil numbers. By way of an example, a two-form entry primary school (420 pupils) would receive £8,725 per annum. The DFC allocations for 2021-22 were £640k and £616k in 2022-23.

2. Additional Devolved Formula Capital Allocation

- 2.1. In December 2022 the DfE announced an additional £447m of DFC funding for schools. The purpose of the funding is for schools to improve energy efficiency, although schools can also prioritise other capital projects. The DfE expects schools to spend this funding within this financial year.
- 2.2. For Sheffield this is **an additional £3.9m of funding** directly to schools. Funding is transferred to schools via January payment schedules.

3. School Rebuilding Programme

- 3.1. In 2021 the DfE launched a School Rebuilding Programme. There are currently 400 projects in the programme. The first 100 schools were announced in 2021. The third set of 61 was announced in July 2022 and the remaining 239 announced in December 2022. The 300 schools prioritised in 2022 were identified from 1,105 nominations.
- 3.2. The projects have been prioritised because they met one or more of the following criteria:
 - They had buildings of specific construction types that require replacement.
 - Their buildings had the highest condition need, identified in data collected in via the Condition Data Collections surveys and verified through additional condition information.
 - Their buildings had a severe and urgent condition need that meant they were a high priority for replacement.
 - Their buildings had risks that have the potential to cause significant harm to pupils and/or staff that meant they were a high priority for replacement.
- 3.3. Having reviewed the condition data that Sheffield holds for its maintained Schools we submitted 10 nominations. Sheffield's condition data is based on a programme of condition surveys undertaken across the whole Children and Young People (CYP) estate by Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) between 2017 to 2020.

The purpose of these surveys was to enable us to better understand the building condition across the school estate so that we can prioritise works in line with the funding available and make appropriate bids for funding as opportunities arise. The 10 schools nominated all featured as the highest priorities across the city in respect of their poor condition. The successful schools are as follows:

 - Brunswick Primary – confirmed in July 2022
 - Pipworth Primary
 - Lydgate Junior
 - Carfield Primary
 - Lowfield Primary
 - Ballifield Primary
 - Windmill Hill Primary has also been selected after it's Academy Trust, Steel City Schools Partnership submitted a bid as responsible body.
- 3.4. Across the programme, the rebuilds and refurbishments will create modern education environments and provide new facilities. Redevelopments will be net-zero carbon in operation, helping to meet Sheffield's net zero ambitions.
- 3.5. Brunswick Primary is at initial feasibility stage and has been identified for a complete rebuild. The project is expected to begin construction stage in spring 2024.

- 3.6. The schools announced in December will be prioritised for delivery at a rate of approximately 50 projects per year, this year and for the next five years. The first schools are expected to enter delivery stage between April 2023 and March 2024. At this stage the DfE will confirm if a project will be a full rebuild or refurbishment.

4. School Condition Surveys

- 4.1. It is proposed that to meet the LA's statutory responsibility to maintain the school estate that £100k of Central Schools Services Block funding is allocated to complete a further series of school condition surveys.
- 4.2. The purpose is to ensure that as a local authority we hold up-to-date building condition information for the maintained school sector. This will, in-turn inform priorities within the Asset Management Plan and Capital Strategy. It will also assist in supporting bids to the DfE for any national capital investment programmes. This was evident in the recent School Rebuilding Programme, where Sheffield successfully achieved six schools' inclusion in the programme. The LA was able to submit current robust condition information to support each of its applications. The result is approximately £30m of capital investment into Sheffield.