

Capital Allocations

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to note:

- The Basic Needs, School Condition and High Needs Provision Capital allocations as per below.
- The School Rebuilding Programme and special free schools update.

1. Basic Needs Allocation

1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) has provided Basic Need allocations to create school places needed by September 2025 and a further allocation to create school places needed by September 2026. The Basic Need allocations are based principally on data collected from local authorities in the 2021 School Capacity Survey (SCAP). This survey collects information on the capacities of schools in each planning area of each local authority, as of May 2021, and local authorities' forecasts of pupil numbers for several years ahead. Basic Need funding is allocated based on a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecasts, the DfE will fund the gap.

1.2. The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 202/26). The allocations for the 2025-26 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2026 (the start of academic year 2026/27).

1.3. The following table provides an overview of Basic Needs allocation:

Basic Needs	22/23 £'000	23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000
Confirmed Allocation	0	9,693	125	26,089

1.4. These figures now include the confirmed figure of £26.09m announced for 2025-26. The major strategies for places required to the end of the decade is to be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee in June and indications are that the level of places required will account for the majority of these funds.

2. School Condition Allocations (SCA)

- 2.1. School Condition funding is for capital investment in maintaining and improving the condition of the school estate. The DfE's aim is for responsible bodies to receive a fair share of the available budget that takes account of their relative investment needs. The expectation is that allocations recognise the need for capital repair and replacement to keep buildings in good condition, while day-to-day maintenance should be paid for by revenue funding.
- 2.2. Local authorities receive a single formulaic allocation to invest in their maintained non-voluntary aided (VA) schools according to their own assessments of condition need. Multi-academy trusts and VA bodies with five or more schools and at least 3,000 pupils receive a single formulaic allocation to invest in their schools according to their own assessments of condition need. The DfE administers funding for single academy trusts, small multi-academy trusts, small VA bodies, and sixth form colleges through the Condition Improvement Fund.
- 2.3. The following table provides an overview of School Condition Allocation:

Building Condition	22/23 £'000	23/24 £'000
Confirmed Allocation	3,561	3,593

- 2.4. It is pertinent to mention that we have substantial maintenance backlog estimated at over £100m spend needed to meet all building condition requirements with over £45m of that total being considered a priority need.
- 2.5. Sheffield has 179 schools, of which 68 are maintained schools. The building condition capital programme is informed by a comprehensive condition survey programme that identifies building elements and then reports on the elements that require attention using a rating system where each element was ranked based on a condition, priority, and severity scoring system. Priority is given to works with a score of 64 or above. A new survey programme has been commissioned which will inform the next asset management plan and identify priority of works required across the school estate.
- 2.6. All capital projects complete a climate impact assessment and where possible net zero options are considered as part of a fully costed options appraisal.

3. School Rebuilding Programme

- 3.1. We submitted bids for 10 maintained schools as part of the national School Rebuilding Programme and six schools were approved. Following the original announcement in December 2022, which confirmed the schools that have been

provisionally selected, the DfE has recently released the following phasing of various projects. These have been prioritised according to their condition:

- Brunswick Community School - Group 1 (already at end of feasibility stage).
- Pipworth Community Primary School Group 1.
- Carfield Primary Group 2.
- Lowfield Community Primary Group 2.
- Ballifield Primary Group 3.
- Lydgate Junior Group 3.

In addition, Windmill Hill Primary, part of Steel City Academy Trust, will also be re-built as part of the programme.

3.2. Timescale

- **Group 1:** DfE has started work on the first group of schools as of April 2023, with schools entering delivery each quarter. These are urgent cases.
- **Group 2:** These projects are currently expected to enter delivery from April 2025.
- **Group 3:** These projects will follow Group 2 projects and are expected to start no earlier than April 2027.

4. High Needs Provision Capital Allocation

4.1. The Education Act 1996 sets out a statutory duty on local authorities (LAs) to secure sufficient school places, which they must do regarding securing special educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as well as those requiring alternative provision (AP). The Children and Families Act 2014 also places important statutory responsibilities on LAs for supporting children and young people with SEND, including keeping the sufficiency of educational provision for them under review.

4.2. High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) is paid to LAs to support the provision of places for children and young people with SEND and those pupils requiring AP. The department does not centrally hold comprehensive data on available high needs capacity or demand for new high needs provision. The allocation methodology is therefore intended to distribute the available funding fairly and efficiently between LAs.

4.3. The following table provides an overview of HNPCA for Sheffield.

SEND	22/23 £'000	23/24 £'000
Confirmed Allocation	6,722	7,129

5. Special Free Schools

5.1. Limpsfield Site

We have received approval from the DfE to build an 80-place social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) school. We are currently working to a September 25 opening date. The DfE will pick up the costs and we will need to pick up any abnormal costs from the High Needs Capital funding.

5.2. New Special School with Barnsley

The new school was secured through the national Free School Programme, led by the DfE. This was a joint bid between Sheffield and Barnsley.

The school will provide 200 places across key stages 2-4 (100 places for each local authority) for children with complex communication/interaction Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs with cognition and learning needs/some children with have pathological demand. The DfE will pick up building costs and we will need to pick up any abnormal costs from high needs capital funding.

6. Other priority areas for High Needs Capital

6.1. Integrated Resource (IR) and Special-led Hub Growth

An ambition has been set to double IR provision in the city within five years, to help manage sufficiency pressures, this equates to at least an additional 300 places. There is an open opportunity for all schools and trusts to be involved in this.

Special-led hubs (where learners are on the roll of special school, and split time between mainstream and a specialist hub, within the mainstream) are in scope of this development.

High needs capital will be used to help develop this provision.

6.2. SEND Post-16

We are seeking to improve and expand SEND post-16 provision to increase sufficiency across the system.

High needs capital will be used to support provision of these places as necessary.

6.3. Alternative Provision Free School Bids

We are supporting two bids for alternative provision free schools; an outcome is anticipated in autumn 2023.

As with the new special schools, high needs capital will be used to fund abnormal capital costs if one or both bids is successful.

6.4. Existing Special School Capacity

Sheffield's existing special schools are on sites which have largely been expanded to their full potential. High needs capital may be utilised to reconfigure special schools to maximise use of space.

It is important to note that significant site expansions, delivered in previous years, are no longer viable due to site constraints.

6.5. Adaptations

High needs capital will continue to be used to fund major adaptations in maintained schools.

7. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to note the:

- Basic Needs Capital allocation for 2023/24 to 2025/26, including the confirmed amount of £26.09m announced for 2025/26.
- School Conditions allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25 for maintained schools and the maintenance back log.
- School Rebuilding Programme timescales.
- High Needs Provision Capital allocations for 2023/24 2024/25.
- Special free schools update, and the other priority areas for high needs capital.