

Report title: 2025/26 Proposed allocation of funding from the Children and Families Directorate, Learning and Early Support Capital Plan.

Cabinet date	10th June 2025
Cabinet Member	Finance & Regeneration (Corporate Landlord) - Cllr Graham Turner Children's Services - Cllr Viv Kendrick Education – Cllr Jane Rylah
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	Yes Yes
<p>Purpose of Report This report will identify potential capital projects, for Member information and approval, to be funded from the 2025/26 Learning and Early Support Capital Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Maintenance section of the Capital Plan to address urgent condition related needs in maintained schools. • Strategic Priorities District Sufficiency including ARP's/Satellite section to increase local sufficiency of SEND places in schools linked to the Kirklees SEND Transformation Plan. 	
<p>Recommendations Cabinet Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and approve the business case at Appendix A which outlines the rationale for the schools' condition works programme, the availability of funding, the selection process and the main categories of work, thereby enabling the projects concerned to be designed, procured and implemented. • Consider and approve the detailed list of proposed condition works in schools for 2025/2026, which is attached at Appendix B. • Note the update on the Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARP's) / Satellites Phase 1 programme. • Consider and approve the two proposed new ARP schemes identified within this report, to support the creation of additional places for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). • Approve the delegated powers to the relevant Service Directors as detailed in paragraphs 2-16 - 2.18 of this report in order to aid the management of the schools' baseline condition and the ARP / Satellite sites SEND programmes 	

Reasons for Recommendations

The vital schools condition programme will address urgent Health & Safety related capital condition works across the maintained schools' portfolio and will help ensure that they remain safe, dry, warm and secure, ensuring positive outcomes for children both now and in the future. Ensuring our children and young people with additional needs can live and be educated in their local communities as a key priority. Therefore, providing a range of places available locally for children with SEND in the form of ARP/Satellite Provision is an essential part of the Council's SEND Transformation Plan. This capital investment will ensure families in Kirklees continue to have access to an appropriate school place benefitting from the improved facilities we are able to deliver with this investment.

Resource Implication: The capital works within the programmes identified in this report are funded through government grant.

Date signed off by Executive Director & name

David Shepherd (Place) – 23/05/2025

Tom Brailsford (Children & Families) – 25/05/2025

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?

Kevin Mulvaney – 23/05/2025

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Governance and Commissioning?

Samantha Lawton – 29/05/2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR implications relating to this report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report will identify potential projects to be funded from the Learning and Early Support Capital Maintenance baseline section of the Capital Plan approved by Council on 5th March 2025. This funding is used to address urgent condition related needs in maintained schools. Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools have access to their own capital funds through their Responsible Bodies.
- 1.2 An update is provided on the investment in the first phase of ARP's and satellite provision to increase local sufficiency of SEND places linked to the Kirklees SEND Transformation Plan.
- 1.3 Members will be asked to consider and approve the Capital Maintenance and APR's/Satellite programmes with the proposed named schemes so that they can be delivered in 2025/26 and to approve the authorised delegated powers for officers to manage these programmes. This enables further investment in the creation, expansion or enhancement of places for children with SEND and management of the Capital Maintenance programme.

2.0 Information required to take a decision

(a) Background

- 2.1 In April 2024 the Department for Education (DfE) announced a Schools Condition Capital grant allocation for 2024/25 of £3.488M for Kirklees. This level of grant was also deemed

to be indicative of the allocation for the Authority for 2025/26, subject to future confirmation by the Department in spring 2025.

- 2.2 The DfE revised the condition funding system and methodology used for their capital settlements in 2022/23, using new data from their National Condition Data Collection, and more up-to-date pupil numbers from the spring 2020 census. Weighted pupil numbers underpin funding calculations for the School Condition allocations. The numbers are weighted to reflect the different levels of floor area per pupil in different settings. We expect this same methodology to be used for future years' allocations.
- 2.3 Grant allocations from the Department are revised annually to reflect new or closing schools and where a school moves to a new responsible body (e.g., from Maintained to Academy status), in which case the pupil-led core condition funding will move with the schools. An in-year grant reduction for 2024/25 was applied by the DfE in October last year due to three schools academizing of £113,596, this has been deducted from the 2025/26 Capital Plan allocation. Altogether, five maintained schools converted to Academy status in 2024/25. When setting the Council's Five-Year Capital plan, we estimated that our grant allocation for 2024/25 from the DfE would be £3.1M. The DfE has since made an announcement on the 22nd May 2025 that the Schools Condition Capital grant allocation for Kirklees will be £3,576,238, significantly more than originally forecast.
- 2.4 In addition to the original allocation of £3.1M and grant reduction, in year re-profiling of funds totalling £627,679 was completed bringing the total budget approved at Council on 5th March 2025 to £3,614,083. Since this date, the new grant allocation announcement (additional £476,238), further re-profiling on uncommitted funds from 2024/25 (£532,000) and rollover funds (£676,780, of which £587,439 is contractually committed) have increased the 2025/26 budget to a total of £5,299,101. The re-profiling of funds from 2024/25 is primarily related to additional condition funds received in previous years designated for aging modular classroom replacement schemes and a delay in developing the fire safety works schemes. A programme of schemes that maximises the use of the re-profiled funds is currently being worked up by the Schools Asset Management Team and Fire Safety Team.

(b) Capital Maintenance for schools – Proposed condition based projects 2025/26

- 2.5 It is proposed that the £5.299M budget allocation for 2025/26 will be distributed as follows pending approval of the 5 Year Capital Plan Outturn report due at Council in July 2025:

Allocation	2025/26 Capital Plan
Urgent condition needs-based projects and Health & Safety works	£3.219M
Aging modular classroom moves/replacement/repair schemes	£0.600M
Essential fire safety works	£0.490M
Essential Physical adaptations works	£0.030M
Capital Plan preparation, advance surveys, feasibility studies, advance design, and condition surveys in relation to delivery of projects	£0.150M
Risk pot for emergency additions to the capital plan in year / balance for high tenders and asbestos removal.	£0.223M
2024/25 Rollover to committed schemes	£0.587M
TOTAL	£5.299M

- 2.6 Attached at **Appendix A** is a business case that outlines the process for identifying the condition needs of individual schools, explains how the backlog of repairs is prioritised across all schools and how the 2025/26 schools' condition programme, if approved, will be designed, procured and implemented. In order to maximise spend on works it is proposed to manage asbestos risk via the main risk pot which will be carefully monitored throughout the year.
- 2.7 Following feasibility work undertaken by the Council's Technical Services; a prioritised list of urgent condition works required to be undertaken in schools during 2025/26 has been identified. This is attached at **Appendix B**. All of the works proposed have scored 28-30 on the matrix scoring system (described in **Appendix A**), indicating that a failure of the element concerned would have a major impact on the individual school from a Health and Safety and/or building closure and/or building damage perspective.
- 2.8 The proposed programme of works primarily consists of the following categories of work:
- replacement of life expired flat and pitched roofs.
 - whole or partial school electrical re-wires.
 - replacement of obsolete boilers and heating distribution systems.
 - urgent health and safety works including fire safety improvements and structural repairs.
- 2.9 In addition to the new condition works, the following activities are also proposed to be funded from the available capital grant:
- £150K to cover survey and preparation costs for the 2025/26 programme along with advance feasibility and design costs for the 2026/27 programme.
 - £223K for a risk pot for items such as emergency in year additions to the programme, higher than anticipated tenders and unexpected asbestos discovered once works are under way.
- 2.10 Currently, all schools that have a scheme of work within the approved programme are asked to make a funding contribution from their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), which is a capital grant given to schools to maintain and improve their buildings. In recent years, the level of DFC received has allowed for over £80K of additional works to be added into the annual programme. Although, as with the Capital Maintenance grant, this fund is decreasing year on year due schools moving to Academy status. The level of DFC contributions for 2025/26 is yet to be determined but will be added to the Capital Maintenance programme throughout the financial year.

(c) District Sufficiency ARP's/Satellites – Phase 2 update and proposed schemes 2025/26

- 2.11 On the 27th June 2023 Cabinet approved phase 1 ARP's/Satellite schemes to be delivered to help ensure there were sufficient SEND school places available within Kirklees. In order to complete these works and respond quickly to other opportunities Cabinet were asked to approve delegated authority for Service Directors to transfer resources within capital programme areas in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.
- 2.12 Further to the named schemes approved at June 2023 Cabinet the following projects listed below have been undertaken using the delegated authority referred to above:

- Netherhall Junior School
Additionally Resourced Provision for up to 12 children with complex communication and interaction needs. Work was required for classrooms and toilets remodelling including the creation of sensory and regulation spaces. Estimated cost £120K.
- Woodley Moor
Temporary Special School Satellite Provision in Crosland Moor for up to 25 children. Woodley Moor has enabled Woodley School and College to increase pupil numbers prior to moving to their new, purpose-built school. The provision has used an empty council-owned building. Work required to enable this included creating classrooms, toilet facilities for pupil, creating of a hygiene room, installation of sensory-friendly lighting and access controls. External areas were cleared, made safe and a safe pupil drop-off zone created. Estimated cost £291K.
- Old Bank Academy
Additionally Resourced Provision for up to 16 children with cognition and learning needs, operational from September 2023. Further minor internal configuration works were identified to meet the needs of pupils with secondary needs of complex communication and interaction difficulties. Estimated cost £20K.

2.13 On 5th March 2025 Council approved the 5 Year Capital Plan which included the 2025/26 ARP's/Satellites budget of £929K. Since then, the DfE has announced an additional £6.118M of High Needs Provision Capital Grant for 2025/26 to Kirklees, pending approval by Council in June 2025 this will be added to the Learning & Early Support Capital Plan for the allocation to projects to support the SEND Transformation Plan.

2.14 Officers are currently working with Schools and Capital Delivery colleagues to identify the following priority works to support the creation of additional SEND provision to be funded from the 2025/26 budget:

- New Mill Infants School
Additionally Resourced Provision for up to 9 children with complex communication and interaction needs, subject to approval by the DfE Regional Director. Work will be required for classrooms and toilets remodelling including the creation of sensory and regulation spaces, secure external boundary and outdoor play spaces. Estimated costs £150,000.
- New Mill Junior School
Additionally Resourced Provision for up to 9 children with complex communication and interaction needs, subject to approval by the DfE Regional Director. Work will be required for classrooms and toilets remodelling including the creation of sensory and regulation spaces, secure external boundary and outdoor play spaces. Estimated costs £150,000.

2.15 In order to ensure that the Local Authority can discharge its statutory duty to provide sufficient high-quality places for children with SEND, it is expected that further opportunities to create, expand or enhance places for children with SEND will be required. Pending Council approval in July 2025, draw down from the additional High Needs Capital Grant allocation, through Service Director delegated authority, as schemes are developed will enable this fast-paced programme to be delivered (business cases will be presented at the Children's Service Capital Board).

(d) *Financial Delegations*

2.16 In order to aid the implementation of the baseline schools' condition programme for 2025/26 mentioned in this report, Members are requested to delegate authority in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rule 3.9 dated June 2025 (as approved at Council on 21st May 2025) to the Service Director – Development – PLACE Directorate to manage the implementation of the identified works within the respective agreed total programme budget and to:

- add new urgent projects to the 2025/26 programme without prior Cabinet approval providing that the total cost of the programme remains within the approved capital allocation set by Council and transfer resources to or from any unallocated resources within a programme area without restriction.
- Slip or delete projects in response to operational need and reallocate budget between projects during the course of 2025/26 providing that the total cost of the programme remains within the approved capital allocation to enable the effective management of the programme, especially during the exceptionally busy six-week summer break when the majority of these works will be delivered.

These delegations are additional to the general delegations set out in the Council's Financial Procedure Rules 3.9, dated June 2025, for Service Directors to:

- Transfer resources within a programme area without restrictions.
- Transfer resources between any project or programme area up to a maximum of £2,000,000 in any financial year.
- Transfer resources within programme areas between any year within the approved capital plan.

Subject to compliance with Financial Procedure Rules 3.10 and 3.11 and notification to the relevant Cabinet Member and appropriate Ward Members.

2.17 Significant amendments to the approved programme under delegated powers will be reported to Cabinet through the Quarterly Financial Monitoring process or through delegated decision notices on the Council's website.

2.18 In relation to the ARP / Satellite provision programme, Members are requested to delegate the same powers of officer delegation to add, slip or delete projects within the Strategy Priorities District Sufficiency programme to the Service Director for Learning and Early Support – Children's and Families.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Should the proposals be approved, officers will work in close partnership with the schools to ensure the delivery of the projects to an excellent standard that will help secure positive outcomes for children both now and in the future.

There is regular engagement with the school system about progress with the Kirklees SEND Transformation Plan and work continues with individual schools to expand the number of places available in Additionally Resourced Provision, Satellite Provision and Special Schools.

3.2 **Working with Partners**

In preparing each of these proposals, Children's Services and Capital Delivery Officers work closely with the Senior Management of each school and, where appropriate, their respective Academy representatives to agree a package of works for each school.

The transformation of the SEND system to deliver better outcomes and on a sustainable financial basis is reliant on a strong partnership approach with Kirklees internal and external partners.

The opportunity for expanding places for Kirklees children and young people with SEND, cannot be realised without good relationships and collaboration with our education providers, local elected members and communities. Ensuring that we maximise opportunities for the next stages to be shaped by partners will be crucial to ensure that services are joined up and well understood.

3.3 **Place Based Working**

Schools are at the centre of their communities, delivering essential educational, health and well-being activities for children, parents and the wider community. These works will ensure that schools remain safe, dry, warm and secure for the benefit of all and deliver high quality places to meet the needs of local pupils.

One of the cornerstones of our SEND Transformation Plan is building provision within Kirklees to ensure there is sufficient capacity locally to meet need wherever possible. We recognise that some children may need to receive support outside of Kirklees, but we want to ensure that is kept to a minimum through better integration of provision and support across partners.

We are passionate about ensuring services are accessible to our Children and Young People and their families and plan to move towards a place-based approach of joined up working with services across Education, Health and Care.

3.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The condition schemes identified in this report will ensure that we are replacing inefficient roofs, boilers, heating and electrical systems with modern, energy efficient materials and equipment that will contribute to an ever-reducing carbon footprint for the Council. For example, roofs will be repaired and insulated to modern standards, LED lighting and new ceilings will be introduced during rewire projects and heating distribution systems that are 40-50 years old will be replaced with new. These projects demonstrate the Council's commitment to investing and managing its school estate to ensure that the Council's Carbon Neutral Vision is supported and enhanced.

Enabling more children to go to their local school will have a positive impact and support Kirklees climate change / air quality ambitions.

3.5 **Improving outcomes for children**

The works identified in **Appendix B** are urgent condition works that could close a school, thereby disrupting the education of children, or represents a potentially significant H&S issue. Improvements in the condition of school buildings will have a positive impact in that they that will contribute to a safe, warm, dry and secure learning environment for all pupils and staff. This capital budget is also used to improve accessibility to school buildings when works are identified in relation to the needs of specific pupils, helping them to attend their local school where possible.

The investment in provision for children with SEND will improve outcomes for children by providing access to high quality facilities to meet the specific needs of children and young

people helping to ensure they have the widest opportunities to fulfil their aspirations and ambitions.

3.6 Financial Implications

The proposed capital programmes provide opportunities for small and medium sized contractors and sub-contractors to deliver projects for the Council potentially employing local labour and suppliers.

The investment in local state funded provision for children with SEND helps avoid the need for more expensive independent places.

3.7 Other (Financial)

The Capital investment outlined in this report for 2025/26 is funded from DfE capital grant and therefore has no impact on Council prudential borrowing.

3.8 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

The Equality Act 2010 (Section 149) requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:

a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Schools Condition programme. The IIA considered that there are no adverse impacts arising from this proposal under the duty and the overall impact will be positive.

4 Consultation

4.1 This report has been subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, they were happy with the recommendations in report including the delegation of powers to the Service Directors for Learning and Early Support and Place.

4.2 Following approval by Cabinet, consultation will occur with the individual schools that are due to be part of the programme to discuss the scope of the works, proposed timings and decant options and this will continue throughout the year as the projects are developed, designed and implemented.

4.3 The Children's SEND Assessment and Commissioning team works closely with the Schools Asset Management team to identify pupils with disabilities to ensure that their needs are being met where appropriate. This involves close consultation with the individual schools concerned and parents to ascertain and agree the level of "reasonable adjustments" required to the school's buildings and grounds, and also to its day-to-day operations and curriculum.

4.4 The establishment of two new ARP's is subject to a significant change business case being presented to the Department for Education Regional Director by the responsible Multi-Academy Trust. Part of this process requires a public consultation, the outcome of which will form part of the decision-making process.

5 Engagement

Engagement with all the schools named in this report that have created or there are proposals to create SEND provision has been vital.

6 Options

6.1 Options Considered

Not undertaking this programme of urgent condition works would lead to the potential closure of the schools if the relevant items failed, as well as causing significant damage and/or creating H&S issues within schools.

It is not a cost-effective option to rely upon high-cost independent provision for children with SEND.

6.2 Reasons for recommended Option

Undertaking the proposed programmes of work will help ensure that our maintained schools remain warm, dry, safe and secure.

Children with SEND can access high quality local provision with facilities to meet their needs, provided in a cost-effective state funded model.

7 Next steps and timelines

Subject to approval of the proposed projects and final business case, Technical Services will ensure that the 2025/26 Capital Plan is updated, and the projects concerned are designed, developed, procured and implemented.

Continue to support the progress of the proposed ARP's and continue to explore further opportunities to meet the needs of children with SEND in Kirklees – ensuring enough of the right stuff (Sufficiency).

8 Contact officer

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9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

5th March 2025 Council: 5 Year Capital Investment Plan 2025/2026 to 2029/2030

26 July 2022, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – Transformation plan update (including Safety Valve update),

27 June 2023, 2023/24 to 2027/28 Council Capital Plan – Proposed allocation of capital funding from the Directorate for Children's Achieve and Aspire Strategic Priorities in the capital plan.

SEND The Big Plan – Dec 2023

[SEND - The Big Plan! | How we plan for SEND | Kirklees SEND Local Offer](#)

12 March 2024, Kirklees Council Cabinet Report Increasing special school places for children with complex autism at Woodley School & College - final decision

SEND The Big Plan – What are we doing next - 2025

10 Appendices

Appendix A: Final Business Case for the Capital Maintenance Schools' Condition programme.

Appendix B: Detailed list of proposed 2025/26 Learning and Early Support Capital Maintenance Schools' condition programme.

11 Service Director responsible

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