

Project Title:	Capital Maintenance for Schools – Condition Programme
Project Manager:	David Martin
Client Service:	Learning & Early Support
Date of this OBC:	March 2026
KMC Capital total (Gross) (£000s):	£3.035M

DESCRIPTION

Description of the project and its purpose:

The Capital Maintenance for Schools grant is provided to all Local Authorities by the Department for Education (DfE) for expenditure on maintained schools to ensure that:

- buildings and equipment are properly maintained.
- health and safety issues are addressed and.
- a backlog of repairs does not build up over time.

In addition, Kirklees uses the funding to ensure that where required, schools are accessible for pupils with disabilities / medical needs and that appropriate specialist equipment such as stair lifts are provided to meet the needs of individual pupils. Since FY 2011/2012 Councils have been expected to fund physical adaptations to schools from the Capital Maintenance grant provided to all LAs. Specialist equipment will, wherever possible, be funded from revenue and only be capitalised as a last resort.

On 25th February 2026, the Council approved a Multi-Year Investment Plan, which included proposed funding under Capital Maintenance for Schools totalling £3.035M, consisting of £2.9M for the main FY 2026/27 allocation and £135K of grant funding re-profiled from FY 2025/26. A DfE grant announcement will be made in Spring 2026 confirming the final total grant allocation, which may be larger than the above.

A programme of urgent condition works in schools totalling £2.590M is proposed. The key categories of works are:

- a programme of urgent and essential repairs to replace leaking and life-expired pitched and flat roofs. Incorporated into these works are enhancements or in some cases the introduction of insulating material, which greatly improves the thermal efficiency of the roof. This contributes to a reduction in the building's carbon footprint through lower energy usage. In the case of pitched roofs in Victorian schools it includes, where necessary, essential repairs to lath and plaster ceilings using a chicken wire and timber batten technique above the suspended ceiling. This greatly reduces the risk of old plasterwork falling through the suspended ceiling. These works also include replacing the existing suspended ceiling grid and luminaries with new energy efficient recessed lighting, which greatly enhances the teaching and learning environment for pupils and staff through an improved quality of lighting, whilst simultaneously contributing to lowering the building's carbon footprint and running costs.
- a programme of whole school electrical re-wiring projects to replace life expired existing systems and to comply with the latest legislative standards. As well as full replacement of the electrical wiring systems, these projects have the added benefit of providing new ceilings and modern, energy efficient LED lighting which provide the schools with a fresh look and greater energy efficiency. Where appropriate, these projects also incorporate improvements to ICT infrastructure e.g., enhancement or rationalisation of data point coverage and the replacement of the existing fire alarm and/or lightning protections systems and provides the opportunity to manage asbestos to support ongoing maintenance of building fabric and other services.
- replacement of inefficient and obsolete boilers with energy-efficient boiler plant and/or the replacement of inefficient heating distribution systems, with low surface temperature radiators providing better control. These works can also have a positive impact on the working environment for pupils and staff as they lead to the provision of heating that better matches an individual school's requirements, reducing energy wastage and utility costs and contributing to meeting the Council's carbon reduction targets.
- a programme of essential fire safety & compliance works in schools arising from Fire Risk Assessments carried out by the schools/Local Authority and H&S inspections.

In addition to the H&S programmes, there is an allocation of £150K for preparation costs for the FY 2026/27 and 2027/28 capital plans. These costs include feasibility studies / asbestos surveys / condition surveys / advance design in relation to the preparation and implementation of projects.

- There is an allocation of £95K to act as a risk pot for emergency schemes that may emerge as the financial year progresses. As the backlog of repairs exceeds the availability of capital, it has only been possible to fund projects with a matrix score of 28-30. Inevitably, there is a risk that schemes that miss the programme cut may deteriorate during the course of FY 2026/27 prompting the need to bring some projects back into the programme in order to tackle serious H&S issues or potential school closures. The risk pot also covers unexpected discoveries of asbestos on site once works have started and the impact of increased construction inflation on material costs.
- An allocation of £200K is provided to cover disability access schemes not yet identified. In all schools the Head teacher and governing body are asked to consider if reasonable adjustments to how they deliver the curriculum can be made without the need to undertake physical adaptations. In addition, consideration is given as to whether specialist equipment can meet the needs of the individual. Where physical works are required, consideration is given to minimising the level of works required to that which would be considered to be “reasonable.” In all cases, the works identified are either required to enable the admission of pupil(s) to the school chosen by their parents / carers from the start of the new academic year in September 2026 or are required to meet the needs of schools where pupils have already been admitted but where adaptation works have subsequently been identified. Works to schools will have wider benefits for staff, visitors and the local communities by increasing the accessibility of the buildings and grounds for all.

Allocation methodology for condition funding

Every school receives a condition survey covering internal and external fabric, mechanical and electrical services, as well as external areas on a planned rolling five-year programme. All surveys are undertaken by the Council using external consultants and are funded through a combination of the Schools Traded Service for Repairs and Maintenance and the Learning & Early Support Schools Condition programme.

The information collected is stored on the Council’s K2 Asset Management database and is used to set the Council’s capital investment plan for schools, as well as being used by schools themselves to prioritise expenditure from their revenue Repair and Maintenance budgets and their Devolved Formula Capital allocations.

All surveys are based on the DfE’s condition surveying methodology, which has been in operation since 2000. The methodology allocates a condition and priority to each individual element using nationally agreed DfE stipulated grades as follows:

GRADE	MEANING
A	Good - Performing as intended and operating efficiently.
B	Satisfactory - Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration
C	Poor - Exhibiting major defects and / or not operating as intended
D	Bad - Life expired and / or serious risk of imminent failure.
Priority 1	Urgent work that will prevent immediate closure of the premises and / or address an immediate risk to the health and safety of occupants and / or remedy a serious breach of legislation.
Priority 2	Essential work required within two years that will prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and / or address a medium risk to the health and safety of occupants and / or remedy a less serious breach of legislation.
Priority 3	Desirable work required within three to five years that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services and / or address a low risk to the health and safety of occupants and / or remedy a less serious breach of legislation.
Priority 4	Long term work outside the five-year planning period that will prevent deterioration of the fabric or services.

This results in each element of a school building and its grounds receiving a grade that indicates its current condition and life expectancy e.g. A 35-year-old boiler might be rated D1 which indicates that the item is life expired and in urgent need of replacement whilst a five-year-old boiler might be rated A4, which means that it is in a good condition and needs no major investment in the next five years.

As the backlog of repairs exceeds the capital available, a matrix scoring system is used to prioritise the backlog of urgent priority 1-3 works, considering issues such as health and safety, the remaining life of the element and the impact of a failure on the building. Each of the three categories is allocated a maximum of 10 points, which produces a maximum score of 30 points. The elements with the highest scores are considered for the condition programme. In using the above system, it can be demonstrated that the programme of works identified represents the most urgent and highest priority repairs for the Council.

A weighting system is employed to give greater importance to some types of repairs than others. Elements that receive a weighting are mechanical services, electrical services, roofs and external walls. Where the number of schools with a matrix score of 26 – 30 exceed the financial resources available, officers prioritise the programme according to the asbestos risk, continuation of previous phases, and links between mechanical & electrical works.

Weightings are not allocated to fixed furniture, external areas, redecoration, sanitary services and internal walls and doors. These areas are often prioritised by schools using their own DFC funds.

What are the benefits / critical success factors?

The Capital Maintenance for Schools baseline condition and H&S programme will help reduce the backlog of priority maintenance in Kirklees community / voluntary controlled / foundation / trust schools.

It will contribute to addressing a key priority for the Directorate for Children's Services, which is to ensure that all schools are warm, dry, safe and secure.

Many of the projects being implemented will have a direct impact on reducing the Kirklees carbon footprint – all new roofs will incorporate significantly improved insulation; new boilers will be modern, energy efficient equipment with the latest TREND controls; re-wired buildings will contain LED energy efficient lighting with significantly improved controls including movement sensors and dimming switches.

The programme is designed and procured to ensure that all schools re-open without loss of teaching days where physically and organisationally possible. Health and Safety concerns will always be taken into account before reopening a school after the summer works period.

FINANCE

KMC **Gross** Total (including external/grant funding if applicable) (£000):

Profile: Year

26/27

Sum

£3.035M

Funding for this section of the Capital Plan comes from the Capital Maintenance for Schools grant, which is not a ring-fenced capital grant, provided by the DfE for Councils to improve and maintain the condition of their schools' estates.

Lifespan of assets

New boilers fitted should have a life of 15-20 years, whilst new heating distribution systems should last 40-50 years. New flat roofs will have a lifespan of 15-30 years depending on the materials used (e.g., felt, asphalt, EPDM) whilst pitched slate roofs can have a life expectancy of 50-100 years+. Rewired electrical systems are expected to have a life of 25-40 years. This will be dependent of an appropriate planned regime of inspection/servicing/repair being carried out by schools and the Local Authority.

Lifecycle Capital costs (during the lifetime of the asset):

It is recognised that there are life cycle capital costs associated with this programme of works. All the roofs, boilers, electrical systems etc. installed will require ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement. All elements of a school building and grounds are covered by condition surveys co-ordinated by the Schools FM team in conjunction with Corporate Landlord Compliance team. All condition related data is stored on the Council's K2 Asset Management system and is used to prioritise works for future capital replacement projects.

Responsibility for the lifecycle costs of this programme rests with the schools and the Council. Schools undertake significant capital repairs / replacement works from their DFC and their own revenue budgets. The Council undertakes capital works in schools using the Capital Maintenance Grant provided by the DfE.

Revenue Implications

Increased levels of insulation in new roofs, the installation of energy efficient boilers, the introduction of energy saving lighting and other devices and the greater use of sustainable technologies should have a positive impact on school running costs by reducing energy usage and therefore bills. These works should also reduce school maintenance costs in the short term by providing new assets, though schools will need to ensure that appropriate revenue budgets are set in the medium and long term in order to maintain the new assets properly. Due to the way that the Kirklees LMS scheme operates any revenue savings will accrue to the individual schools rather than the overall Dedicated Schools Grant.

DELIVERY & MANAGEMENT**How will the project be delivered/managed?****Delivery & Management.**

Design and delivery of the Capital Maintenance programme is the responsibility of the Council's Technical Services. Within the Schools Facilities Management Team, the Asset Manager (Schools) and Asset Management Officers will act as a key link between schools and the allocated surveyor / external framework consultant / external framework contractor / Technical Advisor / Project Manager (the actual combination will be dependent on the procurement route for each individual project) to ensure the delivery of each scheme at an operational level. The Head of Service for Property will act as the Council's overall Project Executive.

How will the Programme/Project impact on hard-to-reach groups?

All sections of the community will benefit from improvements to their local schools including hard to reach groups such as lone parents, traveller families and minority ethnic groups as well as pupils with physical disabilities.

Is this subject to OJEU Regs?

None of the projects are individually large enough to fall under OJEU Regulations. Most projects will be tendered but where projects are delivered via Framework Agreements, these agreements will have already been subject to the full OJEU process.

How will this be procured:

This programme of works will be delivered through the Council's Technical Services. Works delivered externally by contractors will be tendered; or will be negotiated if delivered by KHN (Kirklees Homes & Neighbourhoods). We will also negotiate with private contractors on multi-phased schemes where contractors have performed well on the first phase of works – management of the procurement process will be through the Capital Delivery team.

Key risks in undertaking / not undertaking this programme/project:

This programme contains urgent condition items relating to school buildings (e.g., roof repairs; boiler replacements; whole school electrical rewires; H&S works etc.) that could, if not tackled, lead to damage to the buildings, H&S risks to the building occupants and the potential partial or full closure of schools, which would impact on the educational attainment of young people.

In running this large and varied programme, we encounter many risks including:

- There are some larger schemes (e.g., whole school re-wires or projects that combine different disciplines e.g., boiler replacement combined with a whole school re-wire) which will be complicated to deliver due to programming issues; availability of decant space etc.
- Many schemes will need to be undertaken during the summer holidays due to the nature of the works e.g., the replacement of a slate roof on a Victorian School and therefore any potential slippages could have serious consequences.

OTHER INFORMATION

Key Contacts

Chris Watson – Strategic Manager (Asset Data & Compliance) – Property - Tel: 01484 221000

Email: chris.watson@kirklees.gov.uk

David Martin – Head of Service for Property - Tel: 01484 221000

Email: david.martin@kirklees.gov.uk