

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

8 December 2020

**SCHOOLS CONDITION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 –
ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION**

Report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Executive approval for an addition to the Schools Condition Capital Programme for 2020/21

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In announcements made in April 2020 the DfE allocated Schools Condition funding totalling £9.78 m to North Yorkshire County Council for 2020/21.
- 2.2 This was a further single year allocation. A one-year programme for 2020/21 was approved by the Executive on 9 June 2020 and is currently being delivered. It is monitored through the quarterly capital report.
- 2.3 On 29 June 2020 the Prime Minister signalled the intention to provide an additional £560m nationally for repairs and upgrades to schools. Subsequently, on 5 August, the County Council received confirmation of an additional allocation of £4.54m in Schools Condition funding for 2020/21.
- 2.4 This report proposes the first commitment against this additional funding should be for a programme of mechanical works targeting the upgrade /replacement of boilers and heating infrastructure at a significant number of our schools, with investment totalling £1.8m.

3.0 GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1 The first Schools Condition Grant (SCG) allocation for 2020/21 was announced on 15 April 2020 and was for £9.78m. The second allocation announcement was made on 5 August 2020 and confirmed an additional £4.54m in SCG.
- 3.2 SCG is part of the Single Capital Pot and may be used for all local priorities, although they are intended specifically for investment in schools (and notionally for Children's Centres). SCG funding does not have to be used strictly for maintenance; it is the only capital funding stream available to support other capital improvement works e.g. compliance, suitability, invest to save projects or investment required to address strategic service priorities.
- 3.3 Both allocations this year are once again 100% grant funded (no borrowing approvals or PFI). There is no time limit on expenditure so can be carried forward if unspent at the end of the financial year without risk of claw back. The following tables compare the allocations over the past three years:

4.0 PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT

- 4.1 The Local Priority Statement, which spells out the County Council's priorities for investment in schools, was reviewed and approved by full council in February 2015 following

consultation. A further review is scheduled for completion before the 2021/22 Schools Capital Programme is set.

4.2 The key priorities contained within the statement are reflected in the 2020/21 capital programme. They are:

- Providing new school places in areas of growth
- Supporting school improvement through collaboration between schools and the restructuring of educational provision
- Meeting key local service priorities or statutory service obligations
- Enabling savings or efficiencies to be made in the use of property
- Ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements
- Maintaining the condition of the school estate to ensure buildings continue to be safe, warm, weather-tight and fit for their purpose.

5.0 SCHOOLS CONDITION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21

5.1 The Executive approved the Schools Condition Capital Programme for 2020/21 at their meeting on 9 June 2020. As usual the Programme included commitments for:

- Capital planned maintenance
- General compliance – ensuring health, safety and welfare
- Accessibility schemes
- Prefabricated classroom replacements
- Modernisation/suitability schemes
- Advanced feasibilities

5.2 For the first time the Programme also included a £1.6m allocation for the Specialist Provision Targeted Capital Programme.

5.3 CYPS have commissioned the Programme via the Property Service's Capital Programme Team in line with established corporate arrangements. The Property Service is responsible for directly delivering and/or procuring, via the North Yorkshire consultancy 'Align Property Partners', the required technical and professional advice and for procuring schemes from the County Council's framework contractors. Every effort has been made to ensure timely delivery although the Covid-19 situation has affected schemes and particularly those that were due for delivery in Summer 2020.

5.4 It is necessary to retain an element of client contingency within the Programme to ensure that funding is available where unforeseen additional costs arise as schemes develop through feasibility and into detailed design and procurement. There was, as there always is, an element of contingency included within the approved Capital Planned Maintenance Programme to meet unforeseen emergency work that emerges during the year relating to asbestos or other urgent and unplanned infrastructure requirements. The general contingency addresses any additional costs associated with 2019/20 schemes yet to be completed as well as those in the current 2020/21 programme. The value of the approved contingency for 2020/21 was £850k, which compared to £1.69m in 2019/20. At this relatively early stage of programme delivery, it is considered prudent to retain the contingency approved in June, rather than seek to re-allocate it for new proposals.

6.0 PROPOSED COMMITMENT AGAINST ADDITIONAL SCG ALLOCATION

6.1 The Property Service have reviewed the options for increasing the planned maintenance element of the current programme, as an initial use of some of the additional capital provided. The existing programme approved in June took account of the health and safety limitations presented by working on live school sites particularly in a Covid 19 scenario. They

have therefore focused attention on potential additional schemes that could be completed safely on live school sites, or larger projects that could be completed around the main school holidays.

- 6.2 The outcome of the above review is a recommendation that the best way to achieve an increased planned maintenance programme would be through a targeted programme of mechanical works, which would address significant backlog maintenance issues associated with boilers and associated infrastructure.
- 6.3 In addition to addressing condition related issues, the recommended works would have a significant impact upon CO2 emissions. New boilers are typically 15-20% more efficient than the old infrastructure that is replaced and therefore, benefits are derived from both reduced emissions and costs incurred by the respective schools.
- 6.4 Appendix 1 shows the works proposed works, the 34 schools involved and the total value of the programme at £1.75m including fee costs and contingency.
- 6.5 These works can be completed in the next 12 months. Where works are planned to be completed on 'live' sites it is proposed to provide full separation for contractors using dedicated site setup/welfare facilities. This would significantly reduce the impact on the sites in terms of Covid 19 risk and general health and safety issues associated with working on live sites.

7.0 UNALLOCATED SUMS

- 7.1 The approved 2020/21 Programme included provision of £149k for advance feasibility work required as part of the early development of projects for the Capital Programme in 2021/22. This has comprised 17 feasibility studies, which will all be completed by early 2021. The purpose of this is to provide greater cost certainty moving forward, an approach, which is increasingly proving to be successful. If appropriate, following completion of feasibility work, capital allocations for a project(s) may be made against the general contingency or other uncommitted elements of the 20/21 Capital Programme. Should this be required, any additional commitments would be reported through the quarterly capital monitoring report. More likely though, the majority of these proposed schemes will be considered for inclusion in the next programme for 2021/22.
- 7.2 Given the total capital requirement for next year is not yet know it is proposed that no further commitments be made against the additional allocation for 2020/21 and that the unallocated balance of £2.79m be rolled forward for allocation in the programme for 2021/22. Given the normal timing of annual announcements we would expect this programme to be brought forward for Executive approval in May or June 2021.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
 - i. Approve the proposed addition to the Schools Capital Programme for 2020/21 as summarised in Appendix A.
 - ii. Note the intention that £2.79m, constituting the unallocated element of the additional funding, be rolled forward for inclusion in the Schools Capital Programme for 2021/22.

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Appendix 1 – Additional programme of mechanical works

Background Documents – Report to Executive 9 June 2020

Proposed programme of mechanical works for 2020/21 using additional School Condition Grant allocation received on 5 August 2020

School	Works
Northstead Community Primary School	Replacement of 7No electric water heaters
Thorpe Willoughby Community Primary School	Replacement of calorifiers/cylinders to 5No rooms
	Replacement of pipework
Stillington Primary School	Replacement of oil fired boiler
Colburn CP School	Replacement of calorifier
Pickering Community Junior School	Replacement of pipework (remove existing lead pipework)
Hutton Rudby Community Primary School	Replacement of calorifier
	Replacement of water heater
	Replacement of water storage tanks or pressurise the system
Thirsk Community Primary School	Replacement of 3No boilers
Bradley's Both Community Primary School	Replacement of boiler
	Replacement of boiler
Kettlesing Felliscliffe Community Primary School	Alterations to pipework in boiler room.
Grove Road Community Primary School	Replacement of boiler (Room 104)
Summerbridge Community Primary School	Renew Powermatic heater
Glasshouses Community Primary School	Pressurise system
Beckwithshaw Community Primary School	Replacement of boiler
Thornton in Craven Community Primary School	Replace pipework to main hall
Ingleton Primary School	Replacement of boiler
	Replacement of pumps (3No)
	Replacement of pumps (2No)
Bedale C E Primary School	Replacement of calorifier/cylinder
Crakehall CE Primary School	Replacement of 7No electric storage heaters to top school
Lythe C of E VC Primary School	Replace water storage tanks or pressurise the system
Spennithorne CE Primary School	Replacement of Electric Overhead Radiant Heaters (4No)
Settrington All Saints' C of E VC Primary School	Replacement of boiler
Killinghall CE Primary School	Replacement of boilers (2No)
Roecliffe CE Primary School	Replacement of boiler
Selby Abbey CE VC Primary School	Replacement of boiler
	Replacement of boilers (2No)
Sharow CE Primary School	Replacement of boiler
Bedale High School	Replacement of boilers (3No)

	Replacement of boilers (4No)
The Wensleydale School	Replacement of boiler
	Replacement of calorifier/cylinder
Malton School	Replacement of calorifier/cylinder
	Replacement of calorifiers/cylinders (4No)
	Replacement of boilers (3No)
King James' School	Replacement of calorifier/cylinder to 1No (Cellar) cellar
	Replacement of calorifier/cylinder to 2No rooms
	Replacement of boilers (2No)
Settle College	Replacement of boiler
Upper Wharfedale School	Replacement of boilers (2No)
Ripon Grammar School	Replacement of boilers (2No)
	Replacement of boiler
Boroughbridge High School	Replacement of boilers (3No)
Nidderdale High School & Community College	Replacement of boilers (2No)
Selby High School	LTHW Calorifier/Cylinder - convert to gas pressurised heaters
	Replacement of boiler
Total Programme Budget – including works, fees and contingency	£1.750m