

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

22 February 2022

SCHOOL REBUILDING PROGRAMME

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the criteria for the next round of the Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme and to seek Member approval whether or not to nominate a North Yorkshire maintained school(s) for potential inclusion in the Programme.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The School Rebuilding Programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition.
- 2.2 There are currently 100 projects in the programme. The Government announced the first 50 school in the Programme in February 2021 and the second set of 50 schools in July 2021.
- 2.3 The first 100 schools were prioritised either because:
- they have buildings of specific construction types that require replacement
 - their buildings have the highest condition need, identified in data collected in the Department's Condition Data Collection initiative, and verified through collecting additional condition information
- 2.4 The Department consulted the school sector on their future approach to prioritising schools for the future places in the programme between July and October 2021. Their response to the consultation has now been published, and the approach adopted for the current selection process is based on the feedback received in the consultation.
- 2.5 In 2022 to 2023, the programme expects to prioritise up to 300 schools, reserving remaining places for later in the programme. Schools selected will be informed that they have been provisionally allocated a place on the programme, subject to further due diligence, and projects will then enter delivery at a rate of 50 per year.
- 2.6 Guidance for responsible bodies on how to nominate schools for the next round of the Programme has now been published. Responsible bodies must nominate schools by 3 March 2022.

3.0 PROGRAMME CRITERIA

- 3.1 This rebuilding programme is for schools with buildings in very poor condition which need to be refurbished or replaced. The guidance emphasises that there are a very limited number of places on the programme and priority will be given to schools with the most severe condition need. Clearly nominating a school does not guarantee it will be included in the programme.

Definition of rebuilding need

3.2 This is in priority order:

- Structural or safety issues that mean a block is not fit for use or is likely to become unfit for use imminently because it poses a risk to users.
- Severe deterioration in the main building fabric (external walls, roofs, windows or doors). This means that the most efficient way of returning a block to good condition is to rebuild it or carry out a significant refurbishment.
- Mechanical and electrical systems that are close to failure and could cause a school block to close in the near future, but only if there is another need in the building fabric that makes a refurbishment or rebuild most efficient overall.

Size of Project

3.3 The Government want to select sizeable projects that meet the definition of rebuilding need to ensure the best investment for the limited number of places in the programme.

3.4 For block nominations, there must be a minimum threshold of 1200m² of severe condition need. The Gross Internal Floor Area (GIFA) can comprise of several blocks within the school, or one single block meeting the total. This is to allow a fair and equal comparison to be made between schools.

3.5 Responsible bodies can nominate cases where the whole school is smaller than the GIFA threshold. Schools with a total GIFA smaller than the threshold will be considered based on the condition of their whole site, as in the first two rounds of the programme.

3.6 For exceptional cases, with professional evidence of severe condition need, there is no minimum threshold. This is to ensure that all structural projects where the need is both intense and significant enough that the ongoing safe operation of the school is at risk are captured. The guidance anticipates that projects significantly below 1200m² are unlikely to meet this level of need.

3.7 All blocks that are nominated for consideration must currently be in use by the school unless already forced out of use due to their condition and yet required to deliver the curriculum.

4 NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS

4.1 The County Council is the responsible body for all Community Voluntary Controlled and Foundation Schools in North Yorkshire. There are 208 of these schools in February 2022.

4.2 The block and whole school condition data for those schools that are in the poorest condition is currently been assessed against the Programme criteria. Given the short timescale for this process the data will be presented for consideration at the meeting.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the Executive Member for Schools considers:

- the qualifying criteria set out in the Department's guidance, and
- the school condition data presented at the meeting

and determines whether a school(s) for which the County Council is the responsible body should be nominated for inclusion in the School Rebuilding Programme.

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