

Report Title	Capital Report
Meeting	Schools Forum
Meeting Date	20 February 2024
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
Open/Exempt	Open

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update on capital funding and further information on pupil place planning and any capital implications arising.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. To note the summary of developments against the primary, secondary and special expansion programmes.
- 2.2. To approve the draft Capital Maintenance programme for 2024/25.

3. Background and Key Information

- 3.1. This report provides a brief update on the capital implications of decisions made to ensure a sufficiency of school places for the forthcoming year.

Basic Need Capital

- 3.2. The overall expansion programme costs (below) have been adjusted to reflect the latest position but remain similar to those last reported to Schools Forum in January.

	Previous estimate (Sep '23) £m	Current estimate (Nov '23) £m
Primary expansions	81.1	81.1
Secondary expansions	95.9	96.2
SEN expansions	15.6	15.9

Capital Maintenance Programme

23/24 programme

- 3.3. There remains an unallocated contingency sum of £100k to cover any further emergency condition issues that may arise during the remaining winter months (£10k has already been allocated), and a budget of £110k set aside to contribute towards substantial building repair/ replacement projects anticipated to be required within the next 5 years period.

24/25 programme

- 3.4. There remains £550k unallocated from the 2021/22 capital maintenance programme, to be carried forward into the 2022/23 programme. The DfE have not yet announced the allocation for 2022/23, and as such, the programme is predicated on a conservative estimated allocation of £750k. This programme is intended to address school condition needs, and is allocated through the existing annual school bidding process. Schools submitted a total of 35 bids to be evaluated by the Asset Management Panel (AMP) Steering Group which met on 10 January 2022. The proposed programme of works agreed with AMP for 2022/23 is provided in Appendix A. Ratification for this programme is being sought from the People Committee on 17 March. It is anticipated that the ESFA will announce capital maintenance allocations in March 2022, following which schools will be notified of the approved programme.
- 3.5. The value of the proposed programme of works totals £1.19m; in addition to this a contingency of £0.11 will be allocated to cover emergency condition issues that may arise during the winter months.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in school buildings

- 3.6. An update was provided at the Schools Forum meeting in October. Since this update was made, no further RAAC has been identified in Sutton Schools. The guidance issues to schools with regards to identification and remedial works still stands. Reimbursement against reasonable identification surveys will continue to be paid by the local authority for maintained schools, to be funded through the capital maintenance programme.

Secondary Programme

- 3.7. The following additional places were agreed for September 2023; these schools have already offered these places.
- Glenthorne High School - 43 places
 - Carshalton Boys - 30 places
 - Carshalton Girls - 40 places
 - Cheam High School - 20 places
 - Oaks Park High School - 50 places
 - Overton Grange High School - 60 places
 - St. Philomena's high School for Girls - 30 places

Total - 273 places

- 3.8. Pupil numbers in secondary schools continue to rise; pupils numbers in year 7 are forecast to peak in 2023/24, before starting to fall back again. However, numbers are not forecast to reduce back to levels that can be accommodated within current school PANs until 2028/29.
- 3.9. Due to the relatively low level of surplus places in Sutton, higher than usual levels on in-year applications is placing pressure on a number of year groups, in particular the current year 7 year group. Whilst we anticipate that schools will continue to admit over-numbers where they are able to do so, it may be that in the future the LA requests a school to open a bulge class to release some of the pressure resulting from pupil number growth resulting from these in-year admission.
- 3.10. For September 2024 the following bulge classes have been agreed at Secondary:
- Carshalton Boys - 30 places
 - Carshalton Girls - 30 places (potential for 60 if needed)
 - Cheam High School - 20 places
 - Oaks Park High School - 50 places
 - Overton Grange High School - 30 places

Total - 160 (190 if needed) places

Primary Programme

- 3.11. Officers continue to plan for permanent reductions in primary places and are working with primary schools across the Local Area to consider options based on a variety of different factors including where pupils live, where birth rates have fallen most significantly, parental preferences and the location of delivered and planned housing developments..
- 3.12. Pressure for in-year places continues into 2023/24, in particular over the summer holiday period; however the rate of in-year applications has fallen compared with last year. The level of in-year applications remains high in the primary phase compared with levels pre 2021/22. These pressures are in large as a result of families arriving in the local area through overseas resettlement schemes, for which Sutton is proving to be a popular destination for families to relocate, no doubt in part due to the very high standard of state education our schools have to offer.
- 3.13. These pressures are particularly acute in years 4 and 5 where the area has vacancies remaining in only a few schools that are not necessarily located a reasonable distance from the residential addresses of children seeking an in-year school place.
- 3.14. No further in-year bugle classes are planned for September 2024; however applications in particular to current year 4 will continue to be monitored and the positions reviewed as appropriate.

SEND Programme

- 3.15. Notwithstanding the actions the council has taken to create additional specialist capacity in the borough, as stated above, the demand for specialist places continues to grow and most of the state funded specialist provision in the borough is now largely full. As a result, the council has commissioned places at the following schools for September 2023.
- Avenue Primary ASC Base - 31 to 58 places
 - Woodfield Primary ASC Base places - 42 - 48 places
 - Link Primary and Secondary School - 119 to 145 places (including additional places created at Wallington Primary Academy for pupils with a Pathological Demand Avoidance profile (PDA).
 - Sherwood Park / Hill - 170 to 178 places
 - Dragonflies Early Years Base - 16 to 20 places
 - Total Additional Places - 71
- 3.16. Some minor capital funding has been agreed with schools to support these additional places; Expenditure against these projects will be reported against the SEND expansion programme.
- 3.17. Since 2021/8 the government has made specific SEND Capital funding allocations to support the development and provisioning of SEND places, and community infrastructure and support for SEND pupils. In March 2022, the government announced further allocations of £4.6m for 2022-23 and £3.2m for 2023-24.
- 3.18. To support the substantial increase in places at Sherwood Park school, particularly at the Hill campus where an additional class has been added along with an additional five places in existing classes, a project to expand the Sherwood Hill provision has been developed. In addition to providing additional teaching spaces, this project will also provide the school with an on-site kitchen, which the school currently does not have, and relocation of the essential hydrotherapy pool, which is currently not fit for purpose.
- 3.19. The Local area has now received £12.9m between 2018/19 to 2023/24 through Special Provision Capital Funding (SPCF) allocations. The vast majority of this has been distributed to schools and other education settings through an application process overseen through a steering group of school headteachers and local area SEND representatives and officers. To date, there have been five application rounds (held in the autumn and spring terms annually), across which £5.8m the council has either spent or committed. In addition to this, a further £1.8m has been allocated to LA managed projects at schools and other education settings.
- 3.20. There is £3.8m SPFC remaining unallocated for future projects. It has not yet been confirmed by the government whether any further future SPCF allocations will be made.
- 3.21. A further SPCF application round (round 6) opened in October 2023; conditions for grant funding carried forward from those of Spring 2023 round 5. The application window closes for this round on Monday 6th November. Based on previous spring round allocation, it is anticipated a further circa £1m will be approved through this funding round.
- 3.22. There are two ongoing free school proposals in the borough. The first relates to Sutton Free School 2, which had now been named the Angel Hill Special Academy. This project is led by the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver a new 96 place Autism Spectrum Condition

(ASC) special school on the proposed site of the disused all weather pitch at the Rosehill site - to be run by the Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT). The planning application has now been submitted to the council's planning department, and is scheduled to be considered by the Planning Committee in December this year. The anticipated opening date of the new building has now slipped to September 2025.

- 3.23. The second Free School proposal relates to the Carew Academy special school and the proposal to relocate this school into a new special school on the Sheen Way site. Similarly, this project is led by the Department for Education (DfE). On site construction commenced in April this year, and the Carew Academy is expected to move into its new accommodation from January 2025.

4. Implications

- 4.1. The Council's capital budgets have been updated to reflect committed expenditure.

5. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title