

Appendix B – School Service response to the Scrutiny recommendations, February 2019 to Cabinet on the Schools Major Improvements Programme 2019 - 2020

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)	School Service comments
1. That a review of the level of expenditure in the capital programme and how it relates to the viability of schools is undertaken to ensure that scarce funding is not wasted	Accept rationale – see School Service comments opposite			<p>Any investment decision to commit capital funding into schools will be supported by a business case taking into consideration the approved processes set out in the Schools Asset Management Plan and School Organisation Policy.</p> <p>The prioritisation and ranking of projects has been approved in the Schools Asset Management Plan and the key areas of consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building and site condition</li> <li>• Suitability of school facilities</li> <li>• Pupil forecasts against capacity of school</li> <li>• Serviceable life of building(s), site and plant/equipment</li> <li>• Energy consumption and DEC rating</li> <li>• On-going repair and maintenance liability including statutory compliance issues</li> <li>• Opportunities for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and future schools revenue costs</li> <li>• Opportunities to secure WG Capital funding (with part or no LA contribution).</li> <li>• School Organisation area school reviews – decision regarding investment will be dependent on the outcome of the review.</li> </ul> <p>The School Service will ensure all funding is targeted at only <i>essential works</i> to maintain the safe function and compliance of the school property estate.</p>

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)	School Service comments
2. That scrutiny monitor the ratio of DDA capital expenditure as a proportion of the capital budget and advise of any risk this expenditure may have on the wider capital programme	Accept rationale – see School Service comments opposite			<p>The projects within the Capital programme are essential legislative works to meet the needs of pupils and to ensure their inclusion within mainstream education. The authority has also undertaken DDA improvements to meet the needs of school staff.</p> <p>Although DDA work is undertaken so that a pupil with a physical or sensory disability is able to attend a school within a reasonable distance from the home, it is widely acknowledged that there is improvement to the existing building fabric, for example windows, doors, lifts, teaching and toilet facilities, result in benefits for other pupils at the school.</p> <p>The programme risk is the proportion of budget required to undertake the works against the annual budget allocation. Careful consideration is given to identify the minimum essential works required to meet the needs of the pupil or member of staff.</p> <p>This is balanced against the essential works to maintain the safe operation of school property estate and the available allocated budget. This capital budget for the Major Improvements programme is planned to reduce in future years and careful consideration must be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensuring there is adequate repair and maintenance budget to maintain the schools estate in a reasonable condition whilst not relying on capital budgets to undertake works where there is lack of revenue budget investment i.e. statutory remedial works, painting windows, roof soffits etc. which prolongs the life of a building component</li> <li>2) Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy costs</li> <li>3) Statutory compliance and legislative requirements or changes in legislation for the schools estate</li> </ol>

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)	School Service comments
3. That the service work with HoWPS to ensure that an appropriate level of routine maintenance and repairs are undertaken at all times.			Reject the rationale on the basis of allocated and available schools repair and maintenance budget	<p>The Schools Service is working with HoWPS to ensure that an appropriate level of routine and planned maintenance is programmed and undertaken within budget constraints.</p> <p>The Schools Service Central revenue budget has been reduced limiting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential health and safety or statutory compliance repairs and maintenance which cannot be funded from the delegated schools repair and maintenance budget or (Property Plus) budget e.g. Radon remedial works, assessment of boiler control and building management systems</li> <li>• Minor safeguarding and DDA alterations for pupils which cannot be funded from capital budgets</li> <li>• Temporary storage of mobile classroom units for re-use/upgrade or demolition of redundant or dangerous structures containing asbestos which cannot be funded from capital budgets</li> <li>• Replacement boilers, flood prevention or Environmental health kitchen works under £10,000</li> <li>• The undertaking of feasibility study work for schools and annual condition surveys of school buildings</li> </ul> <p>The Service has issued a new R&amp;M of School Buildings (Property Plus) agreement for the period 2019-2022, which has refined what repairs and maintenance works are covered and removed responsibility for a number of cost effective e.g. replacement light fittings.</p> <p>For secondary and special schools that have opted to retain responsibility for all repairs and maintenance works and those primary schools that choose not to purchase the R&amp;M of School Buildings (Property Plus) agreement, the Schools Service monitors the level of annual expenditure on repairs and maintenance.</p> <p>Where primary and special schools choose not to purchase the agreement, the Schools Service will work with the schools to develop an Asset Management Plan which will be assessed and inspected to ensure the building condition is maintained and fully compliant.</p> <p>New primary and special schools would not normally purchase the R&amp;M of School Buildings (Property Plus) agreement as there is generally a defect liability period with the contractor. After 2 years they will either need to purchase the SLA or prepare an Asset Management Plan for 3 year period.</p> <p>Where a new high school is constructed the Schools Service will work with the school to develop an AMP for repairs and maintenance.</p>

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)	School Service comments
4. That scrutiny are provided with the completed Schools Asset Management Plan to include the financial costs of bringing each school including its grounds up to a position of full maintenance				<p>By the 18th November 2019 the Schools Estate Manager will prepare a preliminary schedule of work to identify the estimated cost of bringing every school including its grounds, up to a position of full maintenance based on known data. Some school property may require further investigation and this will be accordingly noted.</p> <p>This data will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in the building stock i.e. closure of a building or site, significant alteration or extension works.</p>