

Appendix A - Summary of education capital

- 1.1 This document provides a summary of the main education capital funding streams for local authorities and state schools in the local authority area. It currently excludes the funding for new school established in the free school waves.

2. Capital grants for new school places

Basic Need

- 2.1 Basic need funding is the money given by the DfE to local authorities each year to help them fulfil their duty to make sure there are enough school places for children in their local area.
- 2.2 Basic Need can be spent at any state school (e.g. academy (including free schools), community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided). Allocations are reduced proportionally, however, if projected need for new school places is partially or wholly met by a centrally funded free school.
- 2.3 The figures allocated are based on the pupil projections and school capacity information submitted by local authorities each July in the annual School Capacity (SCAP) survey. The DfE also collect information about how the Basic Need grant is spent as part of the annual Capital Spend Survey.
- 2.4 The DfE have used the pupil projections data from the 2021 SCAP to calculate 2023-24 and 2024-25 grant allocations.
- 2.5 Recent Basic Need allocations for the Royal Borough are set out below:
- 2016-17: £2,763,424
 - 2017-18: £2,435,239
 - 2018-19: £1,164,054
 - 2019-20: £1,226,537
 - 2020-21: £0
 - 2021-22: £790,954
 - 2022-23: £1,440,199 (increased from £1,349,079)
 - 2023-24: £0
 - 2024-25: £0
 - 2025-26: £0
- 2.6 In the Royal Borough, decisions about spending Basic Need are usually taken by Cabinet, following public consultation on proposals for new school places. Budgets are agreed by Council in February and spend monitored by monthly budget monitoring meetings.

Targeted Basic Need

- 2.7 On occasion, the DfE announces one-off grants to either top up existing grants or support specific policy objectives. In the past, where these relate to new school places, these have been called Targeted Basic Need grants. There have been no recent grants to the local authority in this category.

S106/CIL

- 2.8 Between 2001/02 and 2018/19, the Royal Borough collected £13,137,667.32 of S106 developer contributions to be used towards the creation of extra capacity in local schools. The majority of the funding (£9,147,052.52) was collected between 2012/13 and 2016/17 as the number of housing completions accelerated, and before the scheme was wound down.
- 2.9 As part of the preparation of the Borough Local Plan, Children's Services has contributed to the development of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This sets out the potential new education infrastructure required to meet the demand from the planned new housing. This would be partly funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy.

3. Capital grants for rebuilding schools

School Rebuilding Programme

- 3.1 This government programme is intended to carry out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition.
- 3.2 There are currently 400 projects in the programme, prioritised by the DfE on the basis of school condition needs identified in their Condition Data Collection programme. The DfE has consulted with local authorities on the prioritisation methodology; it is not thought likely that any schools in the borough are in poor enough condition to be included in future rounds.

4. Capital grants for school condition

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)

- 4.1 All schools receive Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) as part of their annual school funding allocations from the DfE. This is to assist schools with the day to day upkeep of their premises. The local authority remains responsible for monitoring the spend of DFC in community and voluntary controlled schools.
- 4.2 The most recent guidance has clarified that any DFC not spent within three years of payment being made is at risk of clawback by the DfE. This may result in issues where schools are saving relatively small DFC allocations towards larger projects.
- 4.3 Recent DFC allocations for the community and voluntary controlled schools in the Royal Borough are set out below:
- 2016-17: £222,772
 - 2017-18: £197,355
 - 2018-19: £194,875
 - 2019-20: £196,252
 - 2020-21: £195,979
 - 2021-22: £201,204
 - 2022-23: £192,357 + £423,286 (see paragraph 4.4)
 - 2023-24: £178,599

4.4 In late 2022 the government announced an additional investment in DfE to help schools improve energy efficiency. The DfE wants schools to invest this in improving school energy efficiency, but also gives school discretion to spend it on other capital projects.

School Condition Allocation (SCA)

4.5 This grant is given to 'responsible bodies'; that is local authorities and Multi-Academy Trusts and Voluntary Aided school bodies with more than five schools as at 1st September 2022 and 3,000+ pupils as at the Spring 2022 census¹. It is intended to address more serious condition works that cannot be funded by an individual's DfE. For 2022/23, only four bodies responsible for schools in the borough qualify for SCA; the local authority, the Oxford Diocese (which covers the Church of England VA schools); the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) (a MAT that covers most, but not all, of the Church of England academies), and the Portsmouth Diocese (which covers the one Catholic school in the borough that is not in the Frassati Catholic Academy Trust). None of the other MATs covering schools in the borough are large enough to qualify for SCA, including the Ashley Hill MAT, Frassati Catholic Academy Trust; Pioneer Educational Trust, Slough & East Berkshire C of E MAT or Windsor Learning Partnership.

4.6 The local authority's SCA is for spend at community and voluntary controlled schools only, and may fund projects such as:

- New roofs and roof repairs.
- Boiler and pipework replacement.
- Electrical and re-wiring works.
- Resurfacing, paths and access improvements.
- Window and door replacements.
- Structural works.

4.7 Recent SCA allocations for the Royal Borough are set out below:

- 2016-17: £940,753
- 2017-18: £778,251
- 2018-19: £763,898
- 2019-20: £765,392
- 2020-21: £764,240 + £354,927.31 = £1,119,167.31 (see para 4.12).
- 2021-22: £1,404,558
- 2022-23: £1,268,466
- 2023-24: £1,170,524

4.8 The amount of SCA awarded to the Royal Borough has, in general, fallen as more schools have become academies.

4.9 The increased allocation from 2021-22 grant followed revisions to the DfE's methodology for calculating the allocation. In particular, the 2021/22 guidance² noted an increase in the per pupil 'base' rate from £115.15 to £146, as well as additional factors based on school condition, location, Voluntary

¹ Additionally, pupil numbers in special and alternative provisions are multiplied by 4.5 when assessing the pupil number threshold. The only academy special school in the borough, Forest Bridge School, is in a standalone MAT, and so this does not apply.

² [Condition funding: methodology for the financial year 2021-2022](#), April 2021, DfE.

Aided status and PFI status. The assessment of the school condition factor is based on the DfE's Condition Data Collection programme.

- 4.10 There is currently no indication that this methodology will change for 2024/25 and beyond.
- 4.11 The announcement of the grant amount usually happens each spring, in the year in which the grant is allocated. In other words, the 2023-24 grant allocation was announced in late March 2023. Representations about the late confirmation of allocations have been made by many local authorities to the DfE about the challenges this presents in managing the grant.
- 4.12 In summer 2020, the government increased the amount of SCA available to local authorities in the 2020-21 financial year. This was worth an additional £354,927.31 to the Royal Borough, taking the allocation for that year to £1,119,167.31.
- 4.13 In the Royal Borough, decisions about spending SCA are based on a prioritisation of schemes carried out by officers, taking into account requests from schools and surveys carried out by specialists. The prioritised list is usually approved in principle by Cabinet in December, before being approved by Council in February (this process has been delayed in 2023). The approval in principle allows initial work to be carried out ahead of confirmation of the capital grant in April. This makes it more likely that the projects can then be delivered over the subsequent summer holiday period. Further prioritisation takes place over the year as new urgent projects are identified.
- 4.14 Spending of the SCA is now being reported to the DfE, combined with the Basic Need spending, as part of the Capital Spend Survey.

[Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme \(PSDS\)](#)

- 4.15 The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme is a government programme of grants to public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures. There have been a number of phases and waves, with complicated bidding and compliance arrangements. To date, the borough has been successful with three bids involving schools:
- PSDS Phase 1 (2020-21): £205,905
 - PSDS Phase 3a (2022-23): £1,566,590
 - PSDS Phase 3b (2023-24): £1,024,835
- 4.16 PSDS Phase 1 funding was for LED lighting upgrades at a small number of schools. PSDS Phase 3a funding was for the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs), replacing oil-fired boilers, at five schools. PSDS Phase 3b is for two further ASHP installations at school sites. The ASHP projects also include wider energy efficiency improvements to windows, insulation and so on, where appropriate.
- 4.17 Bids have been prepared by the Sustainability and Climate Change Team, Property Services and AfC. For phases 2 and 3, public bodies have been required to make contributions towards successful schemes. For the Royal Borough this funding has come from the School Condition Allocation.

4.18 A further phase is expected to open to applications in Autumn 2023, and consideration will be given to submitting bids for further projects.

[Condition Improvement Fund \(CIF\)](#)

4.19 Academies (including free schools) and Voluntary Aided schools that are not part of a larger MAT or Voluntary Aided body can apply to the DfE for funding for significant condition projects via the Condition Improvement Fund. In a small number of cases this funding can also be used to support school expansions at good or outstanding schools in the CIF category who have a need to expand.

4.20 In RBWM, the criteria mean that academies and VA schools (other than those in the Oxford Diocese or part of the ODST) can apply for CIF funding.

4.21 The successful bids for the 2022 to 2023 CIF round were published last year, with the following schools having funding approved:

- Furze Platt Senior School: water supply and heating infrastructure.
- Furze Platt Senior School: urgent fire safety and compliance works.
- Holyport College: pitched roof renewal programme.
- St Francis Catholic Primary School: drainage improvements.
- St Francis Catholic Primary School: fire safety improvements.
- The Windsor Boys' School: gas distribution works.
- Windsor Girls' School: replacement of cold-water storage systems.

4.22 Schools eligible for CIF can also apply to the Urgent Capital Support grant for emergency funding to address issues that put the safety of pupils and staff at risk, or threaten the closure of a school.

4.23 The 2023/24 round is has now closed for applications, and the DfE aims to announce the outcome in May 2023.

5. Capital funding for special educational needs

5.1 There is currently no specific annual capital funding available for new special educational needs places.

[Special Provision Capital Fund](#)

5.2 This is a one off capital fund, paid over three years, to create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. This focuses on facilities for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

5.3 The full amount allocated to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead was £1.227m.

5.4 The Royal Borough's Cabinet has approved, in principle, the opening of four new Resource Bases, providing additional support for primary age children with communication difficulties and related behaviours (largely Autistic Spectrum Disorder). The opening of these bases will be phased. The projects are:

- Dedworth Campus. Resourced Provision opened in September 2021.

- Furze Platt Primary Federation. Resourced Provision opened in September 2021.
- South Ascot Village Primary School. SEN Unit, opening in September 2023.
- Wraysbury Primary School. Approved in principle by Cabinet. Planned for opening in September 2024.

High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA)

- 5.5 This grant was first announced in April 2021 and is intended to support the provision of places and to improve existing provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and pupils requiring alternative provision.
- 5.6 The allocations made to the Royal Borough total £3,721,221:
- 2021-22: £500,000
 - 2022-23: £1,299,900
 - 2023-24: £1,921,232
- 5.7 There are currently no indications if there will be further allocations in 2024-25 and beyond.
- 5.8 The DfE is encouraging local authorities to invest in projects that help manage pressures on high needs revenue budgets. In particular, the DfE wants local authorities to consider prioritising projects that increase the number of suitable places for children with EHCPs in mainstream settings, i.e. Resourced Provision and/or SEN Units.
- 5.9 Cabinet has, in March 2023, approved a Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Strategy funding the projects set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Schemes in the SEND & AP Capital Strategy

School	Proposal	Timing
Charters School	Improvements to the Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning	Completed
Chiltern Road site	New SEND Careers Hub	September 2023
Manor Green School	Access improvements	Summer 2023.
The Lawns Nursery School	New Early Years School Readiness Hub	September 2023
Hilltop First School	New Resourced Provision for Communication and Interaction	September 2024
Trevelyan Middle School	New Resourced Provision for Cognition and Learning	September 2024
Cox Green School	New Resourced Provision (in principle) with need to be determined.	September 2025
Desborough College	New Resourced Provision (in principle) with need to be determined.	September 2025

West of Windsor	New special school, funding of abnormal costs	September 2026
All schools	Fund for minor adaptations at schools and colleges to support local placement of children and young people with EHCPs.	Ongoing

6. Historical grants no longer active

[Selective Schools Expansion Fund \(SSEF\)](#)

- 6.1 This is a historical grant, dating from 2018-19 and 2019-20, which allowed academies or local authority-maintained schools that are partially or fully selective to bid for funding for expansion. This was not available to borough schools, but two grammar schools in neighbouring areas (Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and Sir John Hampden Grammar School) were successful, and increased their intakes by 30 places per year group each. There are currently no indications in relation to a third round of SSEF.

[Priority School Building Programme](#)

- 6.2 The Priority School Building Programme ran for much of the last decade, in two phases. Phase 1 carried out whole school rebuilds and refurbishments at 260 schools nationally. Phase two focused more on addressing individual school buildings, replacing specific blocks at 277 schools. No schools in the Royal Borough qualified in either round. The programme was largely completed in late 2021, and has been replaced by the School Rebuilding Programme (see paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2).