

Appendix is NOT FOR PUBLICATION
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Mr Burrett, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (and Deputy Leader)	Ref No: ES03 (19/20)
September 2019	Key Decision: Yes
Allocation of Funding for Investment in Site Security and Fencing Improvements at West Sussex Maintained Schools	Part I – Report Part II - Appendix for Members Only
Report by Executive Director Resource Services and Director of Education and Skills	Electoral Divisions: All
<p>Summary</p> <p>The County Council has 284 school sites making up 29% of the total WSCC estate. Current funding available in the Capital Programme for schools is for Basic Need (increasing school places) and Capital Maintenance (condition issues) only. The latter also needs to be used if there is a need for works to address safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>Following recent work on managing the safety of staff and pupils during a potential incident, and as a result of individual school risk assessments, a number of schools have been identified as needing funding to make improvements for ensuring the safeguarding of children.</p> <p>This report provides information on the schools that require capital funding support to minimise risks to pupils and staff.</p>	
<p>West Sussex Plan: Policy Impact and Context</p> <p>This proposal is in accordance with the Best Start In Life Policy within the West Sussex Plan. It will ensure safe access to education meeting the needs of the community.</p>	
<p>Financial Impact</p> <p>This proposal will reduce the amount of future Schools Capital Maintenance funding as shown in the table in paragraph 4.1.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Approve the allocation of £619,000 from the Capital Programme to fund the site security and fencing works and the completion of a procurement process for the delivery of works at 20 maintained school sites as detailed in paragraphs 2.2, 4.2 and 4.3. (2) Delegate authority to award the contract(s) for carrying out the works detailed in the report to the Executive Director Resource Services. 	

PROPOSAL

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The County Council has 284 school sites making up 29% of the total WSCC estate. Current funding available in the Capital Programme for schools is for Basic Need (increasing school places) and Capital Maintenance (condition issues) only. There is currently no specific capital funding for works to address safeguarding concerns at education sites.
- 1.2 Following distribution of the WSCC Lockdown Policy (which provides guidance on managing the safety of staff and pupils during a potential incident) and individual school risk assessments, a number of schools and their County Council Building Surveyors have identified that, to enable the school site to be secured in accordance with the Lockdown Policy, improvements are required to the school site. In the majority of cases this relates to the need for improved boundary fencing to enable the site to be adequately secured. This has led to schools requesting support from the County Council for funding the necessary improvements to their sites which directly link with ensuring the safeguarding of the children in their care. Current funding, i.e. Devolved Formula Capital Grant available to schools direct, is not sufficient to fund these works.
- 1.3 Twenty maintained schools require capital funding support to minimise the risk to pupils and staff of intruders or to ensure the site is sufficiently secure to ensure children, including those with Special Educational Needs, cannot leave the site unattended. The schools have provided supporting evidence to demonstrate instances of intruders on site and/or pupils being able to leave site due to weaknesses in perimeter fencing.
- 1.4 Officers have undertaken assessments of works required at each site to enable it to be secured in accordance with the Lockdown Policy and will commission the County Council's Multi-Disciplinary Consultant to create specifications and designs for the proposed works.
- 1.5 The projects will be procured via a competitive tendering exercise via the County Council's Procurement Team with the County Council's Multi-Disciplinary Consultant (MDC) providing Project Management and technical services.

2. Proposal Details

- 2.1 The proposal is to undertake a procurement process to let a contract for the installation of fencing and security improvements at 20 maintained school sites as detailed in the Part II Appendix. The detailed information is regarded as sensitive owing to the risk of identifying sites which may pose such risks at present.
- 2.2 The proposed works will ensure that the County Council supports schools in meeting the requirements of the Lockdown Policy by being able to secure their site and to safeguard the pupils in their care.

- 2.3 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree that authority to award the contract for carrying out the fencing and security improvement works be delegated to the Executive Director Resources Services. The approval to award the contract will be the subject of a separate decision process.

FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The projects will be designed and agreed in full consultation and agreement with the schools.
- 3.2 The projects will be submitted for planning permission where applicable.
- 3.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources has been consulted on this proposal.

4. Financial (Revenue and Capital) and Resource Implications

- 4.1 The project is to be funded from the Schools Capital Maintenance Grant available in future years. The table below shows the phasing of Schools Capital Maintenance funding as per the Capital Programme approved by County Council on 15 February 2019. This shows the overall amount of Schools Capital Maintenance available in the 4-year Capital Programme is £20.84m, made up of £19.34m estimated grant allocation and £1.5m of Corporate Funding.

**Table Showing Capital Maintenance Funding
2020/21 to 2023/24**

	2020/21 £,000	2021/22 £,000	2022/23 £,000	2023/24 £,000	Total £,000
Future Years Capital Maintenance	6,187	5,538	5,034	4,081	20,840
Capital Maintenance Grant	5,687	5,038	4,534	4,081	19,340
Corporate Funding	500	500	500	0	1,500
Corporate Funding used for safeguarding	-500	-119	0	0	-619
Current amount available	5,687	5,419	5,034	4,081	20,221
Current Corporate amount remaining	0	381	500	0	881

- 4.2 The £619,000 will be funded from the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Corporate funded elements leaving an overall amount of Capital Maintenance funding

available of £20.221m. This £619,000 represents 3% of the future funding of the Capital Maintenance Budget.

- 4.3 The County Council’s Multi-Disciplinary Consultant (MDC) will be appointed to undertake the design work necessary for the production of planning applications and tender packages.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There is an overriding duty on the County Council to ensure the safety of pupils and staff on school sites. The measures must be proportionate to the assessed risk, and the proposals have been prepared following appropriate risk assessments.

6. Risk Implications and Mitigations

- 6.1 The programme of works will have its own Risk Register and mechanism for responding to risk. The main risks are shown below. The principal risk associated with not making these investments relates to the continued risk of exposure to harm of the pupils and staff in identified locations.

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Unable to secure planning permission for individual projects which require permission	Pre-application advice will be sought from Planners.
Projects exceed budget approved	The County Council’s Multi-Disciplinary Consultant will provide cost management services. Value engineering will be considered if applicable.
Contractors unable to complete works in accordance with programme	Contractors will be asked to tender against agreed programmes and tender returns will be reviewed against this criteria.
Works will be undertaken on a live school site	A Construction Health and Safety Plan will be required and all works will be undertaken in accordance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM 2015).

7. Other Options Considered

- 7.1 One alternative is not to undertake the projects. This would mean that identified risks are not dealt with on the 20 maintained school sites.

8. Equality and Human Rights Assessment

- 8.1 The service recognises the primary importance of child safeguarding and the proposal will contribute to ensuring children are safe whilst at school. Part of the risk assessment work to evaluate those sites as qualifying for investment on safeguarding grounds has been informed by an understanding of the needs of those with protected characteristics and in particular those

individuals with disabilities or the likelihood that any of the sites would be used by persons with protected characteristics.

9. Social Value and Sustainability Assessment

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessment

10.1 Addressed in the main body of the report

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Appendices

Appendix - Part II – Not for Publication

Background papers

None