

# Education Capital Investment Plan 2024/25

(Funding Prioritisation, Development and Implementation of  
the Capital Investment Programme)

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## 1. Introduction

This plan reviews the principles and priorities set out and previously agreed by Members, in determining the use of capital funding for education provision. Capital funding for the provision of

Strategy and therefore prioritisation and value in investment needs to be understood and planned for to meet residents needs and maximise benefits.

This paper refreshes the 2019 revision and sets out the terms of investment going forward from 2024/25 and lays out our priorities for Education Capital Investment. This document accords with the current understanding of Government policy. The approval of these principles and priorities will enable officers to continue to progress capital investment in the most effective and efficient way.

Unless it relates specifically to an individual bid, Government funding is not ring-fenced for particular schools or settings. The Authority must determine schemes/projects based upon national and local priorities. The Department for Education (DfE) have announced Basic Need for the current year plus two further years (2024 – 2026) which has allowed scope for supporting the forward planning of need to support the provision of school places. At the time of this update report Basic Need allocations are known up to 2025/26 (for places for September 2026). At the time of this update, the School Condition Allocations (SCA) have been announced up to 2023/24 and take into account the number of schools that have converted to academy status. High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) have been announced up to 2023/24, this does not support the Local Authority (LA) in forward planning future provision to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND)

We are proposing to allocate capital funding in line with the priorities identified in section 6 below. No schemes will be formally approved unless funding sources are understood and approved. The full list of specific schemes will be included in the review of the capital programme and will be submitted to Council as part of the budget approval process for 2024/25 and annually thereafter.

This document is intended to update Members and maintain transparency in the funding of education capital schemes and the opportunities and pressures that exist and require decision making.

## 2. Vision and principles

### Strategic Vision for Education in Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council believes that all children should have the opportunity for the best possible education to allow them to fulfil their full potential. The County Council will work with all types of providers to ensure there is a sufficiency of good quality education places in Worcestershire, including early years and childcare, mainstream school provision, provision to meet the needs of children with SEND and post-16 provision.

- Improve the learning experience of children and young people
- Support good or outstanding provision
- Be sustainable in the long term
- Be cost effective / value for money

**3. Statutory duty for sufficiency of places**

Worcestershire County Council has a duty (under s13-14 of the Education Act 1996) to ensure there

provision. However, the funding is not ringfenced. For the first time in June 2023, the DfE, requested LAs submit Net Capacity Assessments (NCA) and forecasts for Specialist provision, including special schools and resourced provision commissioned by the LA. HNPCA funding beyond 2025 is contingent on the outcomes of future Spending Reviews and additional capital funding beyond this period cannot be guaranteed. It has not yet been confirmed if this information will be used to allocate the HNPCA

## 6. Prioritisation of Projects for Grant Funding

Basic Need is designed to ensure that the Council can fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. This grant can be used to support the creatioi.5ts fe(sch)4(o)4(o)4(33( )-2)-90 g0 3(t)-2(s )-2( 3(

Whilst individual schools in a specific planning area may be full, the LA may not seek to address this from Basic Need if there are sufficient places in neighbouring schools from within the same planning area.

High Needs Provision Capital is designed to ensure that the Council can fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of provision to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. This grant can be used to support the creation of additional places at all tax-funded school and colleges, including Community, Voluntary, Academies, Free schools and Special Schools.

School Condition Allocation is to address the poor condition of an asset against a set criteria. In Worcestershire, condition surveys are commissioned on a 5-year cycle









## 10. Project Implementation and Performance Monitoring

For projects funded from DfE Grant funding, usually the LA will agree appropriate funding with the school / setting and a legal agreement put in place and the school / setting will manage the programme of works.

The Council still retains Landlord responsibility for schools where it is the owner of the land and/or premises, including academies who have leased the assets from the Council. In these cases, schools and academies will need to seek the LA landlord approval before undertaking any capital projects.

Schemes managed by schools / settings using their chosen property consultant must have robust project management methodology in place to ensure that projects are managed well and within agreed tolerances.

Regular monthly meetings to include relevant LA officers and school appointed property consultants take place to discuss, update and monitor progress of agreed schemes.

Updates are also provided to WCF ELT quarterly or more frequently as required as part of the Capital Investment Programme review.

## 11. Education Capital Programme

The Education Capital Programme is part of the overall WCC Capital Programme. Updates to the Capital Programme, including additions, removals and funding source changes progress through a governance pathway that concludes with approval at Full Council. This is through the regular Resource Report, or the annual Budget Setting paper. The Capital Programme agreed by Council in February 2024 can be found on the [Council website](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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