

<b>Report Title</b>	Capital Report
<b>Meeting</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Meeting Date</b>	14 January 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Jenny Sims
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Jack Cutler, Acting Head of Pupil Based Commissioning
<b>Open/Exempt</b>	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. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the summary of developments against the primary, secondary and special expansion programmes.

## 3. Background and Key Information

### Basic Need Capital

- 3.1. 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 '24) £m	Current estimate (Dec '24) £m
Primary expansions	81.1	81.1
Secondary expansions	97.8	99.7
SEN expansions	17.1	17.9

## Capital Maintenance Programme

### 24/25 programme.

- 3.2. Sutton's allocation for 2024/25 was £884,714. As such, the available budget for 24/25 was £940k. This programme is intended to address LA maintained school condition needs, and is allocated through the existing annual school bidding process. Schools submitted a total of 29 bids to be evaluated by the Asset Management Panel (AMP) Steering Group which met on 23 January 2024.
- 3.3. The value of the proposed programme of works totals £959k, which leaves no contingency for emergency winter works. Further work is being undertaken with schools that submitted successful projects to value engineer costs, with the intention to release a contingency to fund emergency winter works. To date, an additional £54,381 has been allocated towards emergency winter works, which will reduce the value of the 25/26 programme accordingly.

### 25/26 programme

An application process commenced in October 2024, with the AMP steering group meeting in January to confirm allocations. The programme will be predicated on an estimated available budget of £885k (the 2024/25 allocation amount, assuming a reduction in pupil numbers 3% (which impacts allocations) and funding rate uplift in line with a reasonable 3% inflation rate). Actual allocations are expected to be announced late Autumn.

### Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in school buildings

- 3.4. The Link School has reopened the Hall space at the Secondary site. RAAC had been identified following an intrusive survey, within the hall of the Secondary site of the Link Special School. The Hall had been closed off to staff and pupils since September 2023. Subsequent remedial work has been undertaken, funded by the DfE, and the Hall has recently been declared safe, and reopened for school use. There are no further updates on RAAC to report.

### Place Planning - Secondary Programme

- 3.5. September 2024 pupil forecasts are lower than 2023 forecasts, and this is validated in Secondary application data for September 2024. The total number of Sutton applicants has decreased by 63 from September 2023, whilst the total number of 1st preference applications has reduced by 72 in -borough and 54 out of borough (a total reduction of 126). However, numbers are not forecast to reduce back to levels that can be accommodated within current school PANs until 2028/29.
- 3.6. Additional funding has been agreed through an urgency notice issued by the council to increase the budget available for the agreed expansion works at Oaks Park High School to

£5.6m (which includes £500k investment in SEND provision from the SPCF), to support the additional 50 places being provided in all years between September 2022 - September 2028.

3.7. For September 2024 the following bulge classes were agreed at Secondary:

- Carshalton Boys - 30 places
- Carshalton Girls - 30 places
- Cheam High School - 20 places
- Oaks Park High School - 50 places
- Overton Grange High School - 30 places

**Total - 160 places**

3.8. For September 2025 it is anticipated the following bulge classes will be agreed:

- Carshalton Boys - 30 places
- Carshalton Girls - 30 places
- Oaks Park High School - 50 places

**Total - 110 places**

#### Place Planning - Primary Programme

3.9. Officers continue to discuss with schools options for permanent reductions in primary places, and school organisation changes, with consideration 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.

3.10. Regarding Reception admissions for September 2025, applications continue to fall, with the total number for Sutton resident applications expected to be fewer than for September 2024. The Local Authority will continue to work with schools to manage the increasing surplus places resulting from these falling numbers. Note, the planning area applications data refers to all applications, from children living both in, and outside of , Sutton, whilst the LA level data is for Sutton residents only.

3.11. No bulge classes are planned for September 2025.

#### Place Planning - SEND Programme

3.12. 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 2025.

- Oakfield base at Woodfield School - 54 to 60 places
  - Sherwood Park Special School - 180 to 204 places
  - The Limes College - 180 -200 places ( additional 20 (That can support 50 young people concurrently) at risk of exclusion places at a new satellite to operate from Sunningdale Road, to open from April 2025.
  - Carew Academy - 254 to 274 places, concurrent with the introduction of a new skills for learning funding pathway
- 3.13. Some capital funding has been agreed with schools to support these additional places; Expenditure against these projects will be reported against the SEND expansion programme.
- 3.14. In addition to these places, additional post-16 and post-19 provision places have been secured at Orchard Hill College. The provision will be available from September 2025.
- 3.15. Round 7 of the special provision capital fund was agreed through the co-opted Asset Management Plan steering group in June, with a total programme value of up to £2.7m.
- 3.16. The Local area has now received £15.7m between 2018/19 to 2024/25 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.
- 3.17. The AMP steering group will convene in the spring 2025 term to consider round 8 applications, where a total over 60 individual project proposals have been received.

#### Place Planning - Free School Programme

- 3.18. There are two ongoing free school proposals in the borough. The first relates to Sutton Free School 2, which has 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). Planning consent for this school was granted on 7 February 2024. The anticipated opening date of the new building has slipped to beyond September 2025. A contingency to open the school in temporary accommodation was rejected by the Department for Education. There is not yet a confirmed opening date for this school. Until such a date is known and can be incorporated into local area SEND place planning, it is anticipated Sherwood Park school would increase capacity through opening provision on a third campus at the Carew Manor site, to meet this requirement for secondary Autism special school provision.
- 3.19. The LA is proposing to expand the Sherwood Park provision at the Carew Manor site by 24 places in September 2025, at a capital cost currently estimated at £218k, on a temporary basis pending a decision from the DfE regarding the opening of the Angel Hill Free School.
- 3.20. The second Free School project relates to the Carew Academy special school and the relocation of 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 2024, and is almost complete. Carew Academy is expected to move into its new accommodation from January 2025. A grant of £130,000 has now been confirmed against this school project, from SPCF grant, to provide external play equipment for this school, as external play equipment is not within scope of the DfE free school programme.

#### 4. Implications

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

#### 5. Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
N/A	N/A