



City of Westminster

# Cabinet Member Report

<b>Decision Makers:</b>	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills
<b>Date:</b>	6 November 2019
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Approval of School Capital Projects and Use of SEN Capital Grant Funding
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Education
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Economic Development, Education and Skills
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	City for All <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of opportunity</li><li>• City that offers excellent local services</li></ul>
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>Westminster City Council has received a grant from the Department for Education to fund capital schemes relating to Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>The grant amount will total £2.444m by 2020/21, with £1.964m received up to the current financial year.</p> <p>Projects totalling £2.168m have been approved at the SEN Capital Board by officers to be recommended for support.</p> <p>The costs of the projects will be fully met by the DfE grant, thereby having no impact on the Council's General Fund.</p>
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Westminster City Council has received an allocation from the DfE of £2.444m for SEN Capital Grant to fund capital schemes in schools.
- 1.2 The Council invited bids from all schools in the City to access the grant. Proposals totalling £2.168m were received and approved.
- 1.3 A balance of £276,000 is remaining for further schemes where they meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the schemes set out in Appendix 2 are approved and added to the Council's Capital Programme.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to the use of the SEN Capital Grant to fund the schemes in Appendix 2.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Westminster has been allocated the following SEN Capital Grant:

2018/19				2019/20	2020/21	Total
Initial allocation	Additional allocation (1)	Additional allocation (2)	Total			
480,000	335,000	669,000	1,484,000	480,000	480,000	<b>2,444,000</b>

- 3.2 The grant is not ring-fenced or timebound and local authorities are able to use it at their discretion to improve special provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The funding can be invested in mainstream schools and academies, special units, special schools and academies, early years settings, further education colleges, or to make other provision for children and young people aged from 0 to 25. The grant conditions require that revenue implications from any investment is minimised.
- 3.3 The DfE issued an Explanatory Note in January 2019 (see Appendix 1). An officer Board has been established (covering both WCC and RBKC) comprising the Director of Education, Assistant Director (SEN and Ed Psych), and colleagues from Asset Strategy, SEN, Short Breaks and Resources, and Finance.

It was agreed that the principal need to be addressed is around the autistic spectrum (ASD) and to enable schools to enhance inclusivity, or to address gaps in provision such as hearing impairment.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 Schools were invited to submit proposals in February 2019 to the SEN Capital Board.
- 4.2 Officers evaluated these proposals and some were deferred with the majority being recommended for approval.
- 4.3 The total approved is to the value of £2.168m, leaving a balance of £0.276m. Please see Appendix 2 for project details.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is in receipt of £1.964m of SEN Capital Grant in 2019/20 with a further £0.480m to be received in 2020/21. The total amount of grant available to fund capital schemes for SEN is £2.444m.
- 5.2 Schemes totalling £2.168m have been approved by the SEN Capital Board to be funded from the grant.
- 5.3 As the total value of the capital schemes is less than the available grant there is no financial impact on the General Fund as a result of undertaking the schemes.
- 5.4 As the Council already holds £1.964m of the grant on its Balance Sheet, there are no cash flow issues relating to financing the schemes nor a reason to delay project start dates to allow for the receipt of funding.
- 5.5 Capital Expenditure is subject to the Council's governance procedures, of which this report is a part.
- 5.6 There is no expected impact from Exiting the EU on the allocation of the grant to the recommended projects. There is a risk that Exiting the EU may cause the pool of available contractors to deliver the schemes to shrink and thus reduce competition in the marketplace, driving up costs. This risk will be managed through the procurement processes of the relevant school, should they self-deliver, and/or the Council's Procurement Code.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The Council has legal power to accept the recommended decisions. (Legal signoff: AMJ/5 November 2019)

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Alan Wharton, ext: 020 7641 2911**  
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**APPENDICES:**

- 1 DfE Explanatory Note
- 2 Schemes approved by SEN Capital Board

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills**

**Declaration of Interest**

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

State nature of interest if any .....

*(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)*

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Nomination and Appointment of Local Authority School Governors** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed .....

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills

Date .....

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:  
.....  
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If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Chief Operating Officer and, if there are resources implications, the Director of Human Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.