

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title

Children and Young People's Service School Capital Programme Update

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Nicola Curley – Executive Director, Children & Young Peoples Service

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The report provides an update on key achievements across the Children, Young People's and Families Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme for 2025/2026

The report also requests approval of the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. Note the achievements in the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2025/2026
2. Approve the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 2 Part B Equality Analysis Form

Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Review

Background Papers

[Agenda item - Special Educational Need and Disability \(SEND\) Sufficiency Strategy 2026-2029 - Rotherham Council – 9th February 2026](#)

[SEND Sufficiency and Aspire Pupil Referral Unit - 7th July 2025](#)

[High Needs / Safety Valve Programme - 2023/24 - 30th July 2024](#)

[SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 update report – 19th June 2023](#)

[Safety Valve Cabinet annual update report - 24th April 2023](#)

[SEND Sufficiency Phase 4 Cabinet paper - October 2022](#)

[SEND Sufficiency Phase 3 Cabinet Report - November 2020](#)

[SEND Sufficiency Phase 2 Cabinet Report May 2019](#)

[SEND Sufficiency Phase 1 Cabinet Report – February 2018](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Children and Young People’s Service Schools Capital Programme Update

1. Background

1.1 The Children & Young People’s Service (CYPS) School Capital Programme aims to:

- Improve the condition of the Local Authority Maintained School Estate.
- Provide sufficiency of places across all state funded mainstream schools in Rotherham
- Provide sufficiency of places for Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) pupils across all state funded mainstream and special schools in Rotherham

1.2 The report provides a comprehensive update in respect of the School Capital Programme following previous updates to Cabinet regarding the implementation of the SEND Sufficiency programme, delivery of the School Accessibility Capital Funding Programme and the Safety Valve programme across both mainstream and special schools.

1.3 The report provides an update on the key capital achievements across the 2025/2026 financial year and details the proposed commitments for the CYPS School Capital Programme for 2026/2027 following the confirmation of the Department for Education (DfE) capital funding allocation.

1.4 Condition Works maintained schools

1.4.1 The 2025/2026 programme was supported by a grant of £719,080 by the DfE. This supports condition works across the 16 Local Authority Maintained Primary schools, 3 Nursery Schools and the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

1.4.2 Schemes are identified following the completion of condition reports by Property and Facilities Services, with regular support provided by each school’s Building Officer. Schemes are completed on a rolling cycle based on priority and the resources available.

1.4.3 Key Achievements 2025/2026:

School	Condition Works	Financial Value
Broom Valley School	Concrete window repairs - phase 2 (north)	£128,197
Blackburn Primary	Basement damp/water	£10,000
Eastwood Village	Latent defects	£150,399
Herringthorpe J&I	Extraction system	£24,906
Herringthorpe Primary	Access control to security gates & security improvements to the vehicle access / pedestrian gate	£25,024
Rawmarsh Aspire	Roofing works	£122,214
Rawmarsh Rosehill	Phase 2 fencing and repointing	£91,596

Todwick Primary	Asbestos removal to the swimming pool prior to works	£29,253
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1.5 **Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools**

1.5.1 There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities under the requirements of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area.

1.5.2 Local Authorities receive Basic Need Capital funding from the DfE to create additional mainstream school places. The funding received is based on a DfE calculation which bridges the gap between the current places available and future demand. This is captured through the annual Schools' Capacity Forecasts and Additional Places (SCAP) survey.

1.5.3 Key Achievements 2025/2026:

As approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and in line with the continued increase of dwellings on the Waverley estate there was a requirement to increase the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) at Waverley Junior Academy to provide 210 additional places. As the requirements were related to an increase in new build homes within the school catchment, the scheme was funded by private sector contributions from the developer through a Section 106 agreement. The additional classroom space was completed and opened in September 2025 in line with the 2025/2026 academic year.

1.6 **SEND Sufficiency**

1.6.1 The 2025/2026 programme was supported by a High Needs Capital Allocation grant of £3.7m by the DfE.

1.6.2 Key Achievements:

SEND Sufficiency	Value
Schools' Accessibility - Mainstream Small Grants Programme and Individual Adaptations	£691,000
Schools' Accessibility - Special Schools	£988,000
Resource Provision Development	£587,000
Special School Growth and Alternative Provision	£542,000

The above table represents actual spend across 2025/2026. Any remaining funding is committed to projects that are being delivered across both 2025/2026 and 2026/2027

1.6.3 2025/2026 was the last year of the Safety Valve Agreement. This included a further round of accessibility small grants which are available through an application, short-listing, and award process. 36 schools have been successful in receiving a grant across the Safety Valve period. The Accessibility small grants programme enables schools to make capital adaptations and improve access to the curriculum for SEND learners, ensuring more pupils are able to be educated in local mainstream schools.

- 1.6.4 The capital completion of a number of new resource provisions on mainstream sites was finalised in year with Thurcroft Junior Academy, Winterhill and Maltby Manor Academy provisions opening successfully. A resource provision is attached to a mainstream school providing specialist therapeutic input and support for pupils with a specific SEND need type. Pupils access support from the resource provision based on their individual need whilst also accessing mainstream classes and curriculum
- 1.6.5 Investment in Special Schools to increase capacity continued in 2025/2026 with this including a capital grant to install modular classrooms at Kelford School and the development of a second site of Elements Academy. In total this resulted in an increase of 54 special school places.
- 1.6.6 As previously agreed at Cabinet, a programme of improving works has commenced across the three sites occupied by the Aspire Pupil Referral Unit. This has included works to improve accessibility, and the curriculum offer at Catcliffe and Hutton Park. Further works are planned in 2026/2027 at the main Rawmarsh site.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Following confirmation on grant funding from the DfE, CYPS are now in a position to present and seek approval for the School Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

2.2 Condition Works – Local Authority Maintained Schools

- 2.2.1 The 2026/2027 programme is supported by an annual capital grant of £728,079 by the DfE and carry forward funding from previous years. This supports condition works across the Local Authority Maintained Schools.

- 2.2.2 The priority schemes identified for delivery in 2026/2027 are set out below. Additional schemes may be brought forward during the year, subject to the availability of resources and agreement of priorities. While the schemes listed have been identified as priorities for 2026/2027, the nature of this programme means that more urgent projects may arise, particularly where required to ensure schools remain safe, dry, and warm. Such projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may result in the re-prioritisation and postponement of some listed schemes in order to remain within the overall approved budget.

- 2.2.3

Site	Work description	Estimated Value £
Blackburn Primary	Upgrade to toilet blocks	160,000
Broom Valley Primary	Heating replacement (phased over 2 years)	275,000
Rawmarsh Thorogate	Fire alarm upgrade	75,000
Badsley Moor Primary	Heating upgrade phase 2	236,000

Badsley Moor Primary	Flat roof works	108,800
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	Flat roofing works	100,000
Rockingham Junior & Infants	Replace hot water cylinders	75,000
Sitwell Infants	Replacement of 3 boilers including heat emitters	100,000
Wales Primary - Nursery	Modular roof repairs	50,000
Eastwood Village Primary	Deck Waterproofing works	180,000
Fixed wire testing	Electrical Installation Condition reports	15,000
TBC	Urgent Minor Works	75,000

2.3 Sufficiency of places in mainstream schools:

2.3.1 The latest Schools' Capacity Forecasts and Additional Places (SCAP) for Rotherham has not identified any immediate concerns in discharging the Statutory Duty to offer a mainstream school place to every child that requires one. As such, there are no current planned mainstream school expansions in 2026/2027.

2.3.2 RMBC has a 5-year profile of satisfying more than 90% of parental first preferences for entry to primary and secondary school education on the national offer day of 16 April annually. The percentage of pupils who are allocated one of their three preferences of a school is above the national average, as verified by the DfE school place provision scorecard for Rotherham.

2.4 SEND Sufficiency:

2.4.1 The 2026/2027 programme is supported by a High Needs Capital Allocation grant of £3.4m by the DfE.

2.4.2 The new SEND Sufficiency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in February 2026. The Strategy shows the anticipated demand for SEND provision across both mainstream and special schools until 2030.

2.4.3 The SEND Sufficiency priorities identified for 2026-2027 are shown in the table below:

SEND Sufficiency	Value
Schools' Accessibility - Mainstream Small Grants Programme and Individual Adaptations	£1,000,000
Schools' Accessibility - Special Schools	£1,000,000
Inclusion Base Development	£750,000
Special School Growth and Alternative Provision	£500,000

The remaining funding (£150,000) is currently being held as a programme contingency.

2.4.4 Further rounds of Schools Accessibility Mainstream Small Grants have been included in the year 1 delivery plan of the SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The funding round will be open to schools in Summer Term 2026. Further capital funding will be available to support improved access to the curriculum in special schools, focusing on cohorts of pupils where there is a current shortfall of places due to the increase in demand for specialist provision.

2.4.5 From 2026/2027, capital planning will be aligned to the SEND Reforms as detailed in the DfE's White Paper *'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'*. The Local Authority is required to submit a SEND Reform Plan which shows how capital funding will be used to support mainstream inclusion including the development of Inclusion Bases. A future Cabinet paper will detail the local arrangements for the implementation of the SEND Reforms.

2.5 **Newman School:**

2.5.1 As outlined to Cabinet in March 2026 following a request from the DfE, the Council has become the grant recipient of Strategic School Improvement Capital Budget (SSICB) funding. This is following the decision of the DfE to re-broker the existing Multi Academy Trust arrangements at Newman and bring in another Trust to run the school.

2.5.2 The capital works will provide a new build block on the main Whiston site and a refurbishment of the school's listed corridor. A contractor has been secured for the works which are scheduled across 2026/2027 and early 2027/2028.

3. **Options considered and recommended proposal**

3.1 The development of a School Capital Programme supports the Local Authority in meeting its statutory duties to improve the condition of the local authority-maintained school estate, to assess requirements and ensure sufficient mainstream school places, and provide adequate capacity for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across both mainstream and special schools. This approach enables the effective and appropriate use of Schools' Capital Allocations for both Basic Need and High Needs Capital.

3.2 Not creating a School Capital Programme would mean the Local Authority does not meet the statutory duties to improve the condition of the Local Authority Maintained School Estate, to assess requirements and ensure sufficient places in mainstream schools, and ensure sufficient places for SEND pupils across both mainstream and special schools. This would not demonstrate appropriate use of the School Capital Allocations for Basic Need and High Needs Capital.

4. **Consultation on proposal**

4.1 Consultation with key stakeholders including schools, parents, carers, and the DfE is included at all stages of development of capital proposals.

4.2 Key updates have been provided to Schools' Forum, school leaders' forums, and associated partners including SEND Partnership Board.

- 4.3 A series of listening events are held with Parents and Carers across key areas of development as part of the wider SEND partnership. Previous listening events have included development of Newman School and longer term SEND Sufficiency planning.
- 4.4 SEND Sufficiency updates including performance data are provided to the Improving Lives Select Commission for scrutiny.
- 4.5 Regular updates on the CYPS Capital Programme are provided to the RMBC Capital Programme and Monitoring Board.

5 **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1
- SEND Sufficiency Strategy approval Cabinet - February 2026
 - Local Authority notification of Schools Capital Allocations for Basic Need and High Needs Capital – April 2026
 - Schools' Capital Programme – April 2026 - March 2027
 - Schools' Capital Approval and Update – Cabinet July 2026
- 5.2 The School Capital Programme completes annual returns to the DfE as part of grant conditions detailing specific schemes and progress. Regular reporting into the corporate Capital Programme and Monitoring Board and CYPS Directorate Leadership provides assurance against progress for all planned schemes.

6. **Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications:**

- 6.1 All procurement related activity referred to in this report has or will be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023) dependent on the route to market as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 The following paragraphs detail the financial implications of the development of the Schools Capital Programme for 2026/2027.

6.3 **Finance – Capital implications**

- 6.3.1 The CYPS Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027 will be funded from confirmed DfE capital grant allocations and committed carry forward resources from previous years where applicable, as follows:
- **School Condition Allocation (SCA – Maintained Schools)** of £0.728m to address condition priorities across the maintained school estate and £0.951m committed carry forward resources from previous years (scheme slippage).
 - **High Needs Capital Allocation** of £3.4m to support SEND sufficiency across mainstream and special school provision and:

- **Basic Need Capital Funding** of £0.152m, where applicable, to support sufficiency of mainstream school places across the borough.

6.3.2 The Capital Programme has been formulated to ensure that planned scheme commitments for 2026/2027 are deliverable within the overall level of capital funding available. Detailed scheme costs will be developed and approved in line with the Council's capital governance arrangements, with expenditure monitored through the Capital Programme and Monitoring Board.

6.3.3 Where urgent or unplanned capital requirements arise during the year, schemes may be re-prioritised to ensure that total expenditure remains within the approved capital funding envelope. No additional unsupported borrowing is required to deliver the programme

6.4 **Finance – Revenue implications**

6.4.1 There are no direct revenue implications arising from the proposed Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027, as all expenditure is funded from external capital grant resources.

6.4.2 Ongoing repairs, maintenance, and operational costs associated with completed schemes will be met by schools from their delegated revenue budgets in accordance with existing responsibilities. The programme therefore places no additional pressure on the Council's revenue budget.

7. **Legal Advice and Implications**

7.1 The proposed Schools' Capital Programme for 2026/2027 supports the Council in the discharge of its statutory duties under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the sufficiency of school places within its area, including both mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision. The delivery of appropriate school places, including specialist provision, is also integral to the Council's responsibilities under the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to children and young people with SEND.

7.2 The programme is funded through a combination of DfE capital grants, including School Condition Allocation, Basic Need and High Needs Capital funding. These funding streams are subject to specific grant conditions which require that the funding is applied for eligible capital purposes and in accordance with the objectives for which it has been allocated. The Council should ensure that all expenditure complies with those conditions and that appropriate monitoring and reporting arrangements are in place, including returns to the DfE.

7.3 While the report sets out how at programme level the Council complies with its statutory duties as set out above, at individual project level there will be further legal implications which include compliance with relevant Procurement legislation, ensuring that robust contractual arrangements are in place and ensuring that sufficient contract and project management controls are implemented.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no foreseen HR implications based on the details included in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Additional Mainstream and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) places created within the Borough give more children and young people the opportunity to access high quality provision to meet their educational needs and in line with parental wishes.

9.2 Key considerations are referenced within the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Both an Initial Equality Screening Assessment and an Equality Analysis have been completed and are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Climate Impact Assessment has been attached as Appendix 3.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Ongoing updates are provided to key stakeholders including parent/carers forum, health leaders, school leaders, schools' forum, and other associated stakeholders.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are risks associated with individual schemes being overspent due to a variety of factors including; rising construction costs, supply chain volatility, and design challenges. There are risks of programme delay particularly for larger more complex schemes that require extended implementation times to complete statutory permissions and procurement.

13.2 Mitigations are provided through early engagement with schools and stakeholders to develop a clear design and scope, assessment of available compliant procurement routes and utilisation of the project contingency where necessary. Where individual schemes are at risk of being delayed these will be reported to the CYPs Directorate Leadership Team (DLT) and the Capital Programme and Monitoring Board in line with existing Governance processes.

14. Accountable Officers

Helen Sweaton Service Director Commissioning, Performance and Quality.
Children and Young People's Services

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	17/06/26
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	11/06/26
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	10/06/26

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