

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4678

Author:

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Department:

People

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Subject:

Schools Accessibility Programme 2022/23 - Schools Forum Funding and Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Allocation

Total Value:

£606,681 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To approve the allocation of Schools' Forum funding for 2022/23 to deliver the schemes prioritised in Appendix A. 2) To approve the carry-over of the underspend of Schools' Forum funding for 2021/22 to be included within the funding envelope. 3) To approve an additional allocation from the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) capital funding to include within the funding envelope. 4) To approve the appointment of a blend of both in-house resources and SCAPE framework contractors (or other compliant framework for the appointment of consultants) to design, build, manage and deliver the schemes. 5) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for People to: a) approve the adjustment of projects following the receipt of final costs, if required; and b) to approve any new projects prioritised that are not currently included in the 2022/23 programme, subject to the schemes falling within the total funding envelope of £606,681. 6) To procure any necessary contracts to carry out the programme of works, and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for People to award such contracts.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** The Dedicated Schools Grant funding approved by Schools Forum provides an opportunity to support both maintained schools and academies to address accessibility issues. On 25 January 2022, the Schools Forum approved the allocation of £200,000 for the delivery of the 2022/23 programme. In addition to this, there is an underspend from the 2021/22 programme of £206,681. The prioritised projects for 2022/23 (as set out in Appendix A) illustrate that, to deliver the full programme of works, there is a shortfall in the overall funding envelope. In order to address this, approval is sought to include £200,000 from the SEND Capital Allocation to establish a financial envelope to be able to deliver the schemes prioritised for the 2022/23 programme. The programme of works has been prioritised by the Council's SEND team, working in conjunction with other teams within the Council, Head Teachers and Special Education Needs Coordinators. Other medical specialists including Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists have also been consulted. The recommended works in the 2022/23 programme are a blend of projects ranging from installing access ramps to creating more specific SEND provision. Generally, the schemes come from child-specific referrals and they can be at short notice. Delegating the authority to the Corporate Director for People to adjust projects and approve any new projects prioritised will ensure a timely response.

**Briefing notes documents:** Grant allocations 2022 23.docx

**Other Options Considered:** 1) To do nothing: this option is rejected as there is an identified need for the specified accessibility works within the programme to support children with SEND in accessing education.

**Background Papers:** None

**Published Works:** None

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None

**Consultations:** Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** None

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA - Schools Accessibility Programme 2022 23 approved 17.06.22.docx

**Social Value Considerations:** Not applicable

**Relates to Council Property Assets:** Yes

**Relates to Building Services:** Yes

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 25/07/2022

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity, Property, Building Services

**Legal Advice:**  
There are no significant legal issues arising from this report. The use and allocation of any funds must be in accordance with any funding obligations and requirements. Any works being carried out, if not by the Council's in-house teams, must follow the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and any procurement legislation. The report indicates that the intention is that third-party frameworks may be utilised, such as through SCAPE, which can be supported by Legal Services as providing a compliant means of procurement.  
  
Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 30/06/2022.

**Finance Advice:**

**Capital Comments**

As detailed in the recommendations enclosed the Council has secured Disability Access Budget and SEND capital grant to enable the School Accessibility Programme to progress at the recommended level. Details of the location and types of work is contained within the Appendix Grant Allocations 2022/23, it is the project manager's responsibility to ensure the works as set out in the Appendix meets the definition of capital. These projects have been approved by at the June 2022 Capital Board and the Capital Programme will be amended following the approval of this decision.

Advice provided by Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 21/06/2022.

**Revenue Comments**

At the end of the financial year 2021/22, the cumulative underspend on the Disability Access budget was £522,000. However, there are outstanding commitments against the budget of £315,000 that were approved in Delegated Decisions 4540 (£225,000), 3954 (£30,000) and 4073 (£60,000). This leaves an unallocated balance of £207,000. Included in the Schools Budget 2022/23 report taken to Schools Forum on 25 January 2023 was funding of £200,000 for disability access in 2022/23. This is funded in the high needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. This brings the total unallocated funding to £407,000 from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

As stated above in the capital comments, £200,000 has been earmarked within the SEND capital grant for disability access in 2022/23. This brings the total funding available to £607,000 for disability access in schools. Any uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year 2022/23 will be returned to the Statutory School Reserve and then reallocated in the financial year 2023/24. Any overspends on individual school projects will be the responsibility of the school concerned.

Advice provided by Julia Holmes (Senior Commercial Business Partner - Children and Adults) on 6 July 2022.

**Procurement Advice:**

There are no direct procurement issues with the decisions being sought, as the use of third-party frameworks is permitted under Contract Procedure Rules. These frameworks must have been tendered in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and be used in accordance with the terms and conditions of the framework agreement; in case of doubt the Procurement Team should be consulted for further advice.

Advice provided by Jonathan Whitmarsh (Lead Procurement Officer) on 22/06/2022.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

Equality Impact Assessment has been received and quality checked by Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team. The outcome of this programme will be positive for children, young people and children with disabilities.

Advice provided by Saema Mohammad (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead) on 16/06/2022.

**Property Advice:**

**The decision will improve accessibility to schools and academies is supported by Strategic Assets and Property.**  
**Advice provided by Deborah Millar (Property Business Partner) on 20/06/2022.**

**Building Services Advice:**

**There are no direct issues with the decisions being sought.**  
**Advice provided by Trevor Bone (Property Maintenance Manager) on 22/06/2022.**

**Signatures**

**Cheryl Barnard (Portfolio Holder- Children, Young People, Schools)**  
**SIGNED and Dated: 18/07/2022**  
**Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)**  
**SIGNED and Dated: 15/07/2022**