
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	7 March 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	EDUCOM/29/23/EM
Contact Officer:	Eddie Montgomery	Contact No:	01475 712472
Subject:	Education Capital Programme 2022/25 - Progress		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to consider performance for the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee and provide an update in respect of the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme.
- 1.3 The Education capital budget is £14.646m with total projected spend on budget. The Committee is projecting to spend £2.284m in 2022/23 with £79k advancement being reported. Appendix 1 details the capital programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the current position and the progress on the specific projects of the 2022/25 Capital Programme as outlined in the report and appendix.

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Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 This report shows the current position of the approved Education Capital programme reflecting the allocation of resources approved by Inverclyde Council on 24 February 2022.
- 3.2 The report also covers progress on the limited programme of works remaining connected with the 1140 Hours Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare and now includes the recently announced Scottish Government capital funding allocations to support the phased expansion of free school meals to primary school children.

2022/25 Current Capital Position

- 3.3 The Education capital budget is £14.646m. The budget for 2022/23 is £2.205m, with spend to date of £2.085m equating to 94.56% of original projected spend (91.29% of the revised projection). The current projection is £14.646m which means total projected spend is on budget. The revised projection for 2022/23 is £2.284m with £79k (3.58%) advancement in connection with the over expenditure on the Gourock Primary School project as outlined in 3.4 below. This is a decrease of £104k from the previous reported advancement position which is due to the inclusion of the free school meals capital allocation in the current 2022/23 projection which has altered the baseline approved budget. Appendix 1 provides more detail.

Education Capital Projects

- 3.4 **Gourock Primary School Extension:** The project achieved practical completion in December 2022. As previously reported to Committee, the allocated budget for the project will be exceeded and final account negotiations for the project are on-going with the overall project cost reconciliation also subject to the engagement and resolution of the original contract and performance bond. Over expenditure of £349K is currently being reported. The Committee has previously been advised that the total cost of the project is being contained through a review of existing unallocated funds within the lifecycle fund and the complete on site allowances. The Committee is requested to note the revised position and proposed allocation of funding outlined in 3.6 below. A report on the final outcome will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Education Lifecycle Works

- 3.5 **General Lifecycle Works:** The lifecycle programme for the Education estate is informed from the external condition surveys carried out in connection with asset management and estate core fact reporting. The budget also addresses suitability issues identified from the surveys undertaken through Heads of each establishment and sufficiency issues identified through the continued monitoring of school rolls and projections. The lifecycle programme for the four PPP schools is managed as part of the contract through the Facilities Management provider with monitoring via Property Services. The 2022/23 programme of works has largely been completed with some minor decoration, emergency lighting upgrades and other miscellaneous works ongoing up to the end of March 2023. The 2023/24 programme is being developed in readiness for the new financial year and works will include the continuation of the school pitch lifecycle works (carpet replacement at 3 secondary schools), the active panel refresh programme, LED lighting upgrade projects and the normal range of elemental replacement and minor refurbishment/improvement projects with further detail to be provided to future committees. The 2023/24 PPP lifecycle programme is programmed to be submitted for Property Services review by the end of February 2023.

Free School Meals

3.6 The Scottish Government confirmed in November 2022 capital funding allocations for 2022/23 to support the phased expansion of free school meals to primary school children. It was noted that this funding is to be used in 2022/23 to support initial investment in school infrastructure, including school catering and dining, ahead of further expansion of free lunches for primary school children later in the parliamentary term. The funding is to be used to support capital costs incurred in delivering primary 5 expansion, and for preparation for primary 6 and 7 expansion. A further allocation has been confirmed for 2023/24 and this is reflected in Appendix 1. It should be noted that an element of the future works relate to alterations within a number of school kitchens and this involves consideration of the use of appropriate holiday periods and cognisance of the lead time for the types of equipment involved. Officers are working at present to establish a more detailed programme however it is anticipated that summer 2023 is a more realistic target for the kitchen alteration works subject to the ability to progress projects to tender and secure the necessary kitchen specialist contractors who are likely to be engaged by a number of authorities given the national expansion programme. A number of projects already undertaken through the School Estate Management Plan have contributed to the ability to deliver the expansion of free school meals, including the recently completed Gourrock Primary School Extension project which involved the provision of a new dining/activity hall and the relocation/upgrade of the kitchen. The Committee is requested to note that the £350K 2022/23 allocation is proposed to be set against this project pending a more detailed reconciliation of free school meal expansion related projects.

1140 Hours Expansion - Various Establishment Minor Works

3.7 An allocation of funds was made available from the projected early years revenue underspend to address improvements across a number of early years establishments associated with access to, and use of, external environments. Works have been completed at Blairmore Nursery. The Enabling works at Wemyss Bay Nursery Class were undertaken over the October holiday period with the main contract works now progressing on site and anticipated to be completed by the end of March. The works proposed at Kings Oak Nursery Class require to be phased to minimise disruption and will now involve use of the Easter and Summer holiday periods.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress on projects and note that relevant reports will be brought back for Committee consideration as and when required.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)			X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report.

5.5 Strategic

None

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been prepared following consultation with the Interim Head of Property Services and Finance Services.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

