

Capital Allocations

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the Basic Needs, School Condition and High Needs Provision Capital allocations as per below.

1. Basic Needs Allocation

- 1.1. The Department for Education (DfE) has provided Basic Need allocations to create school places needed by September 2024 and a further allocation to create school places needed by September 2025. The Basic Need allocations are based principally on data collected from local authorities in the 2021 School Capacity Survey (SCAP). This survey collects information on the capacities of schools in each planning area of each local authority, as of May 2021, and local authorities' forecasts of pupil numbers for several years ahead. Basic Need funding is allocated based on a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecasts, the DfE will fund the gap.
- 1.2. The allocations for the 2023-24 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2024 (the start of academic year 2024/25). The allocations for the 2024-25 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2025 (the start of academic year 2025/26).
- 1.3. The following table provides an overview of Basic Needs allocation:

Total 2023-24 Basic Need funding allocated for places needed by September 2024	Total 2024-25 Basic Need funding allocated for places needed by September 2025
£9,693,256	£125,340

2. School Condition Allocations (SCA)

- 2.1. School Condition funding is for capital investment in maintaining and improving the condition of the school estate. The DfE aims that responsible bodies receive a fair share of the available budget that takes account of their relative investment needs. The expectation is that allocations recognise the need for capital repair and replacement to keep buildings in good condition, while day-to-day maintenance should be paid for by revenue funding.
- 2.2. Local authorities receive a single formulaic allocation to invest in their maintained non-voluntary aided (VA) schools according to their own assessments of condition need. Multi-academy trusts and VA bodies with five or more schools and at least 3,000 pupils receive a single formulaic allocation to invest in their schools according to their own assessments of condition need. The DfE administers funding for single academy trusts, small multi-academy trusts, small VA bodies, and sixth form colleges through the Condition Improvement Fund.
- 2.3. The following table provides an overview of School Condition Allocation:

2022/23
£3,560,893

- 2.4. It is pertinent to mention that we have substantial maintenance backlog estimated at £45m for 66 maintained schools - using current SCA it would take us over 12 years to fully implement lifecycle maintenance.

3. High Needs Provision Capital Allocation

- 3.1. The Education Act 1996 sets out a statutory duty on local authorities (LAs) to secure sufficient school places, which they must do regarding securing special educational provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as well as those requiring alternative provision (AP). The Children and Families Act 2014 also places important statutory responsibilities on LAs for supporting children and young people with SEND, including keeping the sufficiency of educational provision for them under review.
- 3.2. In March 2022, the DfE announced High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) for financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. HNPCA is paid to LAs to support the provision of places for children and young people with SEND and those pupils requiring AP. The department does not centrally hold comprehensive data on available High Needs capacity or demand for new High Needs provision. The allocation methodology is therefore intended to distribute the available funding fairly and efficiently between LAs.

3.3. The following table provides an overview of HNPCA for Sheffield.

Updated High Needs Provision Capital Allocations 2021-22	Updated High Needs Provision Capital Allocations 2022-23	High Needs Provision Capital Allocations 2023-24
£1,944,426	£6,722,522	£7,129,919

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to note:

- The Basic Needs Capital allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- The School Conditions allocation for 2022/23 for maintained schools and maintenance back log.
- The High Needs Provision Capital allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/24.