

Scheme for Financing Schools

12. RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

12.1 Illustrative examples of capital expenditure items in line with Department for Education's interpretation of the CIPFA code of practice are included at Appendix C. The principal objective is to ensure that buildings are well maintained and provide a safe and efficient work place for schools to operate.

The LA requires governing bodies to maintain school buildings to a reasonable standard, ensure identified H&S issues are addressed and to make proper financial provision from within the delegated revenue and capital resources to achieve this.

Under the scheme, governing bodies have been delegated authority and all funding through the Individual Schools Budgets, to take forward all revenue repairs and maintenance work required to all parts of the school site and buildings. This includes responsibility for items such as health and safety testing and servicing of electrical wiring and emergency lighting systems, fire alarm systems and heating systems and appliances, as well as kitchen maintenance and pest control.

12.2 Governing Bodies are also allocated Devolved Formula Capital each year. Expenditure may be treated as capital only if it fits the definition of capital used by the local authority for financial accounting purposes which is in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Central Bedfordshire Council's Schools de minimis limit for the definition of capital and revenue is **£2,000**.

The LA may undertake ad-hoc inspections through appointed surveyors and engineers to ensure that school assets are safeguarded.

The budget share of a school may be charged by the LA without the consent of the governing body for expenditure by the LA in carrying out building repairs and maintenance, health and safety work or capital expenditure for which the LA is liable where funds have been delegated to the governing body for such work, but the governing body has failed to carry out the required work.

Funding for major capital expenditure, defined in Appendix C of the scheme, is retained by the Authority with the exception of Devolved Formula Capital.

The LA carries out a programme of school building condition surveys as part of the Authority's Asset Management Plan. Copies of the surveys are provided to school governing bodies. This informs the Council's School Capital Maintenance programme and should also inform the planning of repair and maintenance works by Governing Bodies.

Where capital works are identified as LA responsibility schools will be required to a) contribute the first £10,000 -b) Amounts above £10,000 are funded 50% by the school and 50% by the LA, up to the utilisation of 50% of the current year's formula capital allocation.-c) Once the limit at b) above is reached, the LA will fund 100%. (see also Appendix C - Schedule of works deemed capital which are LA responsibility, specifically section **Schools Contribution to repairs and maintenance deemed as capital Works**).

12.3 For voluntary aided schools, the liability of the LA for repairs and maintenance (albeit met by delegation of funds through the budget share) is the same as for other maintained schools, and no separate list of responsibilities is necessary for such schools. However, eligibility for capital grant from the Secretary of State for capital works ~~at~~^s voluntary aided schools depends on the *de minimis* limit applied by Department for Education to categorise such work, not the *de minimis* limit used by Central Bedfordshire LA.

[LA Co-ordinated VA Programme \(LCVAP\) is the formulaic capital funding allocated by the DfE for major capital expenditure in VA schools specifically. This is administered by the Diocesan authorities with the co-ordination of the LA.](#)