

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Sal Thirlway / Learning, Achievement & Partnerships	Budget Manager *	Piers Brunning
Project Managed By *	TBC	Rolling Programme *	No
Project Title *	Secondary Basic Needs Programme - additional places		

Project Description *

This is a programme to ensure that there are sufficient local school places across the borough, and will be informed by the secondary school places strategy currently out to consultation.

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab)

Yes

Date consulted?

tbc

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted

Arnab Mukerjee

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" *

Red

Comments regarding RAG Status

Action plans are being worked up with schools, but all bar one are Academies and they have no legal duty to co-operate with the Council or to work within council financial constraints. While they have a contractual duty to co-operate, this is through a contract with the DfE and there is no good reason to think the DfE's managing agent, the Regional Schools Commissioner, will be overly concerned with local authority financial constraints.

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the Business Case *

MTFP Category	Children Services and Schools
MTFP Sub Category	Improvement to existing facilities

Outline Business Case

Wokingham has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure there are sufficient school places. This programme will ensure that the borough can continue to fulfil its duty. Schools are an important feature of the built environment and planned investment in the education estate will enhance the wider area. Creating school places where they are needed will help alleviate traffic congestion caused by families having to drive their children to school and support cost containment on budget areas such as Home to School Transport.

Equality Impact Considerations

Considered as part of secondary place planning, no impact identified at this time.

Budget Requested in £'000

Total of scheme approval **23,585**

Capital Scheme	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Secondary Basic Needs Programme - additional places	4,894	4,500	6,500	4,500	2,835	5,250	23,585

Project Total (Info only) **28,479**

equals cell f70

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Sal Thirlway / Learning, Achievement & Partnerships	Budget Manager *	Piers Brunning
Project Managed By *	TBC	Rolling Programme *	No
Project Title *	Secondary Basic Needs Programme - additional places		

Funding Identified *

Funding identified No

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this Business Case? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total funding amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	23,585	23,585	23,585		
Funding Shortfall	23,585	23,585	23,585		

If Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications (if applicable)

£'000

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) *

0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing (either increased income/ or reductions in cost) - Invest to save schemes only	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs excluding financing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue savings excluding financing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Creation of appropriate secondary school places will over time work to reduce home to school transport costs as the number of children living beyond statutory walking distance of a secondary school will be greatly reduced. Revenue costs of new schools will be met from DSG, not the General Fund.

Additional Details *

Additional Information

In the 2022/23 school year the borough will have insufficient planned places to comply with statutory duty. This shortfall in provision will peak in 2023/24 and demand will decline towards current levels towards the end of the decade, based on current projections. A complicating factor is the very few preferences expressed for the one boys schools in the borough. This has meant that although this school has vacancies the council cannot place girls there and has had to agree additional places at local co-educational schools. Until this issue is resolved (resolution is not in the Council's gift) additional capacity (on top of that required by rising rolls) is necessary to ensure girls can be offered school places. It may then be necessary to create lower standard accommodation (with risks to standards of teaching and learning) where it is possible to do so, rather than where it is required (leading to increased General Fund spend on home to school transport and increased levels of traffic congestion). In the short term the more likely risk is that families living in the south of the borough will not have access to local school places and will need to be transported across the borough.

The Council receive non ringfenced basic needs grant from the DfE (c£7.2m 21/22, c£5.3m 22/23, 23/24 onwards unknown) and will apply this funding to school related projects where appropriate.

Links to other useful documents (e.g. Business Cases)

Link	Comments

New Capital Business Case Template 2023 to 2026

Details

Directorate *	Childrens Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Sal Thirlway / Learning, Achievement & Partnerships	Budget Manager *	Piers Brunning
Project Managed By *	TBC	Rolling Programme *	No

Project Title * Sixth Form Expansion

Project Description *

In line with a the decision by Wokingham's Executive on 22 / 03 / 2022, the Council is working with the Bohunt Education Trust to open a new sixth form at the Bohunt Wokingham School. This will provide circa 300 additional places, taking the schools capacity from 1,200 (11 to 16) places to 1,500 (11 to 19) places. The project is also intended to provide additional places for children of statutory school age (11 to 16) and to lead to enhanced support for children with special education needs at the school.

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab) Yes Date consulted? 16/03/2022

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted Arnab Mukherjee

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" * Amber

Comments regarding RAG Status

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the Business Case *

MTFP Category	Children Services and Schools
MTFP Sub Category	

Outline Business Case

The new sixth form would reflect the council's original intention for the school, that in time it would become a 1,500 place 11 to 19 school. Sixth form numbers in the borough and surrounding communities are projected to increase as the larger cohorts that are now entering secondary schools age into the 16+ age groups. Most Wokingham sixth forms are sized to accommodate the number of sixth formers that could be generated by their 11 to 16 rolls. Currently most former pupils of the Bohunt Wokingham School and a significant number of students from other Wokingham schools go onto sixth form places outside the borough, but growth in communities near these out of borough schools and colleges create a significant risk that Wokingham students will be unable to secure places at these out of borough settings and so will wish to attend Wokingham sixth forms. In this event, there would be insufficient places locally to meet needs. Although colleges in neighbouring boroughs might be able to increase their capacity, these are not local (Reading and Bracknell and Wokingham Colleges are both circa 9 miles from the Bohunt Wokingham School site).

Equality Impact Considerations

Local provision of post 16 places will be beneficial to students with impaired mobility.

Budget Requested in £'000 **Total of scheme approval** 5,400

Budget Phasing *	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Sixth Form Expansion	500	3,500	1,900	0	0	0	5,400

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Project Total (Info only) £'000 5,900

Funding Identified *

Funding identified? No

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this Business Case? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total funding amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	5,400	5,400	5,400		
Funding Shortfall	5,400	5,400	5,400		

If Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications

£'000

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) *

0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing - Invest to save schemes only (either increased income / or reductions in cost)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs after financing						0
Annual on going revenue savings after financing						0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Recurring revenue costs of sixth form capacity is funded through the national 16 to 19 funding formula linked to the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Additional Details *

Additional Information

This is a partnership scheme with the Bohunt Education Trust, which will contribute £2m towards project costs.

Links to other useful documents (e.g. Business Cases)

Link	Comments
1	
2	
3	

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Adam Davis / Childrens Services Social Care	Budget Manager *	Adam Davis
Project Managed By *	Hayley Rees	Rolling Programme *	No
Project Title *	New Build - Care Leaver one-bedroom accommodation		

Project Description *	<p>Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has identified the need to improve the housing offer for 2 groups of young people, care leavers aged 16 – 25 and homeless 16 and 17 year olds. Work has commenced to improve local supported accommodation provision but there is still a considerable shortage of one-bedroom social housing.</p> <p>Housing, Children's Services and People and Place Commissioning are all aware that there is an acute shortage of one-bedroom social housing generally. This also has a knock on effect of delaying moves for care leavers and young people from our supported accommodation schemes, even if they have the highest priority within the Allocations Scheme.</p> <p>The project aims to provide one-bedroom social housing flats for our care leavers and vulnerable young people within the borough. The outline requirements would be for 4 one-bedroom flats. These would be built as close to Wokingham Town centre as possible.</p>
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Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab)	No	Date consulted?	n/a
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Names of Operational Property Officer consulted	No
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RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" *	Amber
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Comments regarding RAG Status	
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Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the Business Case *

MTFP Category	Children Services and Schools
MTFP Sub Category	New facilities

Outline Business Case

<p>Local authorities have various duties and powers to assist young people as they become young adults, including those young people who need help with housing and support to live more independently. Councils meet these responsibilities within an increasingly challenging environment, in which access to suitable and affordable housing is difficult to secure, particularly for young people on lower incomes and reliant on welfare benefits.</p> <p>Housing, Children's Services and People and Place Commissioning are all aware that there is an acute short of one-bedroom social housing generally: in recognition that this is delaying moves for vulnerable people, including young people, even if they have the highest priority within the Allocations Scheme.</p> <p>By way of context, there were 790 people on the Housing Register waiting for 1-bedroom properties at the end of March 2020. By January 2021 the number of people waiting for 1-bedroom properties had risen sharply to 1,398. In the 6 months October 2019 – March 2020, only 59 1-bedroom properties were let in Wokingham. Most of these were new build. Since then lettings have slowed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and demand is reported to have increased, partly due to the 'Everyone In' programme, which aims to offer social housing to rough sleepers. There is very little new 1-bedroom social housing being built this year.</p> <p>Lack of local one bedroom social housing is causing 'bed blocking' issues within our existing supported accommodation sites in Wokingham (Reading Road) and temporary accommodation.</p> <p>The law states that care leavers must be given 'suitable accommodation' which is defined as suiting a young person's needs and lifestyle (being near work, college, for example), have received checks from the local authority and follow health and safety regulations for rented accommodation.</p> <p>Each year somewhere between 12 and 15 young people leave care in WBC, most of whom do so on their 18th birthday when they become adults. One or two may leave care aged 16 or 17 but this is not a usual occurrence.</p> <p>There are numerous routes young people take when they leave care and each young person has a unique set of circumstances. However, there are some common features of leaving care in WBC. Of the 71 care leavers aged 18 – 25 and their accommodation types in March 2020 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •32% were living independently •18% were living with parents or relatives •17% were 'staying put' with former foster carers •15.5% were in semi-independent supported accommodation •10% were in a community home/residential care setting, which may include a NHS establishment. Some of these young people may have disabilities or mental health issues <p>Between October 2019 and November 2020, almost 20% of the total cohort of care leavers were homeless in WBC and placed in TA. Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic may have increased this number to some degree, there is evidence which indicates the statutory homelessness route has been used routinely for several years.</p> <p>Local Authorities have a duty to support care leavers to access accommodation and support their transition to independence. In Wokingham there is difficulty finding one-bedroom social housing.</p> <p>As well as overall supply, affordability is a significant factor to those on low income and in particular for under 25 year old's, who have lower rates of benefit entitlement than older adults if they are single. Young people are reported to be failing affordability assessments with housing associations. This is causing 'silt up' in Reading Road supported housing. Managing on a very tight budget is difficult, and the risk of debt and rent arrears is high unless young people are given assistance and advice on how to manage, as well as assistance to find employment. It is positive however that care leavers will be exempt from payment of the Council Tax until they are 25 if they live in Wokingham.</p>
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Equality Impact Considerations

As part of the scope of this work an equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

Budget Requested in £'000

Total of scheme approval **1,200**

Budget Phasing *	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2024/25 £'000	Year 2 2023/24 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Capital Scheme							
New Build - Care Leaver one-bedroom accommodation	940	1,200	0	0	0	0	1,200

Project Total (Info only) **2,140**

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Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

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Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Adam Davis / Childrens Services Social Care	Budget Manager *	Adam Davis
Project Managed By *	Hayley Rees	Rolling Programme *	No
Project Title *	New Build - Care Leaver one-bedroom accommodation		

Funding Identified *

Funding identified No

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this Business Case? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total funding amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	1,200	1,200	1,200		
Funding Shortfall	1,200	1,200	1,200		

If Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications (if applicable)

£'000
Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) * 0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2024/25 £'000	Year 2 2023/24 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing (either increased income/ or reductions in cost) - Invest to save schemes only	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs excluding financing						0
Annual on going revenue savings excluding financing						0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Ongoing revenue implications will be worked through as the project develops, and will be reflected in placement budget modelling. Potential for savings delivery will be contributory factor to placement savings already reflected in the MTFP.

Additional Details *

Additional Information

None

Links to other useful documents (e.g. Business Cases)

Link	Comments

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Sevices	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Sal Thirlway / Learning, Achievement & Partnerships	Budget Manager *	Piers Brunning
Project Managed By *	TBC	Rolling Programme *	No
Project Title *	SEND Sufficiency - new bid		
Project Description *			

A key driver of the cost pressures in the local SEND system, and the Council's High Needs Block, is the lack of appropriate local provision to meet the needs of children and young people. Sufficiency of local provision is key to delivering financial sustainability, while also ensuring vulnerable children and young people are educated closer to home.

SEND Sufficiency Work has identified the following provision gaps:

- lack of special school provision
- currently no SEND units
- redevelopment and refocus of resource bases

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab)

Yes

Date consulted?

Ongoing

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted

Arnab Mukerjee

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" *

Red

Comments regarding RAG Status

Delivery of suitable provision requires engagement with schools, identification of appropriate sites and detailed build / renovation plans. Figures will therefore be developed and refined as the programme develops.

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the Business Case *

MTFP Category	Children Services and Schools
MTFP Sub Category	New facilities

Outline Business Case

Currently a significant number of children and young people with SEND are educated out of borough in often expensive independent placements as no suitable provision is available locally. Around 33% of total High Needs Block funding is expected to be spent on independent and non-maintained special schools in the 2022/23 financial year, but for only around x% of overall pupils with an Education Health & Care Plan.

Local special schools are at capacity, and Wokingham currently does not have appropriate SEND Unit provision in place for those pupils who could be supported to remain linked to a mainstream setting.

Increasing local provision not only provides for cost savings per pupil, but also allow vulnerable children and young people to go to school closer to where they live. This in turn also reduces the cost of Home to School Transport.

Savings deliverable through increase local provision are key to the delivery of financial sustainability within Wokingham's High Needs Block, and forms a key part of the DSG Management Plan being developed in conjunction with the Safety Valve Programme.

Equality Impact Considerations

Local provision will be beneficial to those pupils with Special Educational Needs, ensuring appropriate education settings to meet need, closer to where they live.

Budget Requested in £'000

Total of scheme approval **40,662**

Budget Phasing *	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
SEND Sufficiency - new bid	5,577	662	20,800	13,200	6,000		40,662

equals cell g75

Project Total (Info only) £'000 **46,239**

Funding Identified *

Funding identified?

No

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this Business Case? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total funding amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation (ringfenced grant)	662	TBC			
WAVE Fund / Additional HNPCA Grant (ringfenced)	40,000	TBC		Bid process underway - outcome not known	
Total Funding Available	40,662	0	0		
Total Project Costs	40,662	40,662	40,662		
Funding Shortfall	0	40,662	40,662		

If Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications

£'000

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) *

0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing - Invest to save schemes only (either increased income / or reductions in cost)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs after financing						0
Annual on going revenue savings after financing						0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Revenue implication modelled and included as part of DSG Management Plan and future projected High Needs Block spend.

Additional Details *

Additional Information

Links to other useful documents (e.g. Business Cases)

Link	Comments

1
2
3

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Rachel Oakley / Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Standards	Budget Manager *	Rachel Oakley
Project Managed By *	Norman Horrocks	Rolling Programme *	Yes
Project Title *	Education System		

Project Description *

A range of system functionality is currently used by Children's Services in delivering key statutory duties including SEND, early years, school admissions, education welfare. The current system has been under a rolling contract for a number of years and a full re-tender is being taken forward for the 2023/24 financial year. This will allow a longer term, more cost effective procurement arrangement and as part of that costs will be capitalised appropriately.

Has Operational Property been consulted? (see guidance tab) Date consulted?

Names of Operational Property Officer consulted

RAG Status (Certainty around financial assessment and ability to deliver project)

Green	High certainty on figures and project delivery
Amber	Some certainty on figures and project delivery
Red	Low certainty on figures and project delivery

Select "RAG Status" *

Comments regarding RAG Status

Please select the appropriate MTFP category for the Business Case *

MTFP Category	Children Services and Schools
MTFP Sub Category	Service improvements

Outline Business Case

See project description. Procurement business case approved at Executive July 2022.

Equality Impact Considerations

Robust system functionality ensures identification of, and delivery of key services to, vulnerable children and young people. Service specification for the new contract will include appropriate equality impact assessment.

Budget Requested in £'000 **Total of scheme approval**

Capital Scheme	Previous Years Approved Budget £'000 (Info only)	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Education System	0	192	192	192	192	192	960

equals cell f70

Project Total (Info only)

Capital Business Case Template 2023 / 2026

Details

Directorate *	Children's Services	Lead Member *	Prue Bray - Children's Services
Assistant Director / Service *	Rachel Oakley / Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Standards	Budget Manager *	Rachel Oakley
Project Managed By *	Norman Horrocks	Rolling Programme *	Yes
Project Title *	Education System		

Funding Identified *

Funding identified No

Are there external funding streams identified to contribute towards or fully fund this Business Case? (if yes please add the details to the table below)

Funding Details

Please ensure you complete this section with as much information as is possible

Funding source	Total funding amount £'000	Funding confirmed £'000	Funding received £'000	Comments - for example - Quote relevant contributions agreement	Grant details / Grant reference
Total Funding Available	0	0	0		
Total Project Costs	960	960	960		
Funding Shortfall	960	960	960		

If Invest to Save funding - see Invest to Save Calculator tab to check scheme is financially viable

Revenue Implications (if applicable)

£'000

Net Revenue Impact (saving in brackets) *

0

Revenue Implications	Year 1 2023/24 £'000	Year 2 2024/25 £'000	Year 3 2025/26 £'000	Year 4 2026/27 £'000	Year 5+ 2027/28 £'000	Total for Approval £'000
Annual cost of financing (either increased income/ or reductions in cost) - Invest to save schemes only	0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual on going revenue costs excluding financing						0
Annual on going revenue savings excluding financing						0
Net Revenue Implications (savings in brackets)	0	0	0	0	0	0

equals cell C99

Details of Net Revenue Implications

Current contracted funded through a combination of sources, including the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG. The new contract will seek to ensure cost efficiencies for delivery of improved functionality, by fully testing the market. The ongoing revenue implications will be kept under review as the procurement process progresses.

Additional Details *

Additional Information

None

Links to other useful documents (e.g. Business Cases)

Link	Comments