

Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to apply to the School Rebuilding Programme
Decision Maker:	Trevor Cook, Assistant Director, Education Services
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
ELT Lead:	Tara Geere, Director of Starting Well (Statutory Director for Children's Services)
Report Author and contact details:	Pooneeta Mahadeo, School Organisation Manager pooneeta.mahadeo@havering.gov.uk Tel. 01708 431092
Policy context:	Nominations for the next round of the Department for Education's school rebuilding programme are open. The programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth-form college buildings. The government has committed to expanding the programme by a further 250 schools and sixth-form colleges. Buildings are prioritised according to their condition. Havering needs to nominate as many eligible schools as possible where they have significant rebuilding and/or condition needs, as funding for maintenance of the schools' estates is limited.
Financial summary:	There are no financial implications at this stage. Should any nominated schools be successful, acceptance of

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	the funding will be subject to a further ED.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	People Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	<i>The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision</i>

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

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Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To approve that the LA nominate the following schools to the Department for Education's school rebuilding programme:

Langtons Infant School & Nursery (Dining Block)
Hilldene Primary School

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3, scheme 3.3.3., paragraph 5.1: To apply for, accept and thereafter spend / allocate any grant funding connected with their directorate provided that any match funding or residual liabilities can be met from the existing budget of the directorate. For the avoidance of doubt this delegation shall allow the acceptance of any grant offered / allocated to the Council without any application.

As notified to the Monitoring Officer in the Sub Delegation from the Director of Children's Services / Director of Starting Well to the Assistant Director, Education Services, dated 7 August 2025.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The School Rebuilding Programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth-form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition.

On Wednesday 11 February 2026, the Department for Education launched the nomination round to select an additional 250 schools for the programme. The deadline for nominating a school is midday on Thursday 23 April 2026.

To establish a shortlist of schools to nominate to the school rebuilding programme, the Asset Management team listed all maintained schools. These were then assessed against indicators such as how old the school buildings are, the Department for Education's condition assessment (as per the condition data collection), the current building construction method, etc. The data showed that the two listed above were the only Local Authority maintained schools that met the DfE criteria.

All cases must show that rebuilding or significant refurbishment is the only long-term solution or represents the most efficient way of addressing the condition issues.

In priority order, the Department for Education are looking for:

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1. **Extensive structural or building safety issues** - this means blocks are not fit for use, or are likely to become unfit for use in the near future, because they pose a risk to users
2. **Extensive, severe condition need** - this means severe deterioration of elements of the key building fabric (such as external walls, roofs) or building services systems (such as mechanical, electrical systems) that are close to failure or have already failed

Nominating a school or sixth-form college does not guarantee it will be included in the programme. There are a limited number of places available in the programme and priority will be given to those with the most severe condition issues and need. The schools selected to be nominated are LA maintained schools with severe condition issues.

The Department for Education will also consider additional factors as part of the assessment process and will undertake their own checks on:

- pupil numbers and capacity
- latest local plans, including:
- planned housing developments
- school openings, mergers and closures

The Department for Education do not intend to approve projects for rebuilding or significant refurbishment in areas where there are:

- large surpluses of places
- pupils have reasonable access to alternative schools

Having needs to take this opportunity to nominate as many eligible schools as possible where they have significant rebuilding and/or condition needs, as funding for maintenance of the schools' estates is limited. It is challenging for the Local Authority to address the condition needs of the schools' estates through regular formulaic maintenance allocations due to limited funding and rising costs.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No other options to be considered.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Agreement has been sought with Headteachers of the schools for which we are submitting a nomination.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Pooneeta Mahadeo

Designation: School Organisation Manager

Signature:



Date: 15/04/2026

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

At this stage there is minimal legal risk in nominating schools for the school rebuilding programme as the Council would not be committed to accepting any potential monies granted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

For those schools approved by the Department for Education for the school rebuilding programme where rebuilding or significant refurbishment need has been confirmed, consideration will also be given to plans to combine capital projects, the use of additional funding streams, and, where it offers better value for money, moving site.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no HR Implications arising directly from this report.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environmental and/or climate change implications associated with this report.

DfE's 2022–2030 Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy commits to decarbonising the estate and improving resilience, but current rebuilding schemes will directly deliver net-zero-ready buildings for only a small proportion of the total estate (c.2%).

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The School Rebuilding Programme carries both environmental costs and climate benefits. While construction and demolition generate embodied carbon, waste, and short-term local impacts such as noise and air pollution, the programme ultimately delivers far more energy-efficient, low-carbon school buildings. New designs incorporate modern insulation, heat pumps, and renewable energy systems, significantly reducing operational emissions and improving indoor air quality. The programme also strengthens climate resilience through better flood protection, passive cooling, and sustainable drainage. Overall, it represents a meaningful shift toward a lower-carbon, climate-adapted education estate, despite the unavoidable environmental footprint of construction.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Nominate a school for the school rebuilding programme guidance
- School Rebuilding Programme Nomination Guidance Webinar FAQ

APPENDICES

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed 

Name: Trevor Cook

Other manager title: Assistant Director, Education Services

Date: 16th April 2026

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

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