

Sent Via Email

Dear Parent and/or Carer,

## **Capital Programme**

At their meeting of 14 September 2023, members of Highland Council agreed a revised Capital Programme, covering a 5-year period 2024/25 to 2028/29. This programme was revised in light of increased costs relating to capital investment (inflationary costs of building works, and increased levels of interest relating to the borrowing the council needs to undertake to pay for such works). The challenge for the council was to agree an affordable programme.

The agreed programme will see £343m of capital investment over this period. The programme contains a wide range of projects, including schools which are at an advanced stage of construction, important spending on a range of ICT programmes and a number of major infrastructure projects, including bridges, roads, harbours, landfill restoration and school improvements, as well as essential repairs and maintenance to support our large number of public buildings, including community based facilities. For example, the school builds approved in the Scottish Government's LEIP programme in phases 1 ([Tain Royal Academy campus](#)) and 2 ([Broadford Primary and Nairn Academy](#)), will continue as planned. All of this secures significant public investment to sustain jobs over the five-year period.

However, due to rising costs and inflation, a number of projects cannot be progressed at the current time. A number of schools were included as part of the funding bid for Scottish Government Learning Estate Investment Programme ([LEIP](#)) [phase 3](#). These school projects can only proceed if and when external funding becomes available and subject to Council approval. These projects include a bid consisting of a bundle of three primary schools: Beauly Primary, Dunvegan Primary and Park Primary, a separate bid for St Clement's School, and a third bid for a new primary school for east of Inverness.

The Council understands and acknowledges the concerns of parents, pupils and staff around investment in the school estate and the level of interest of communities in local investment schemes.

Plans are being made for stakeholder group meetings to be held over the next few weeks, in order to fully explain the revised Programme and the decisions made and how this will affect your area. We will advise you of these dates as soon as possible.

A further Capital Programme report is scheduled to go before members in October 2023, however, meantime, the detail of September's report can be viewed online here:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/82168/item\\_12\\_capital\\_programme\\_review](https://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/82168/item_12_capital_programme_review)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MR', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Mark Rodgers, ECO Housing and Property  
Highland Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N Grant', written in a cursive style.

Nicky Grant, ECO Education & Learning  
Highland Council