

Committee:	Date:
City of London Academies Trust Finance Audit and Risk Committee	4 October 2019
Subject: Allocation of Trust Capital Funding Across the Academies	Public
Report of: Chief Financial Officer	For information
Report Author: Claire Hersey, CFO	

Summary

Each year MATs with at least five academies and more than 3,000 students/pupils, receive a School Condition Allocation (SCA) from the Education and Skills Funding Agency. 2019-20 is the first year that COLAT is eligible for the SCA. The ESFA provides strict guidance on what the SCA can be used for in schools but it is up to the Trust to determine how the funding is allocated between the eight academies. The central Trust team have developed an application form for the eight academies to use to apply for a share of the 2019-20 SCA. These applications will then be reviewed and prioritised by the central MAT team with consideration given to criteria such as health and safety issues, energy efficiency, current age and condition of the site, teaching and learning requirements and alternative funding available. Once the assessment is complete, the proposed distribution of the 2019-20 SCA will be presented to the FARC for review and approval.

Recommendation

The Committee members are asked to review and note the 2019-20 application form and supporting guidance for schools.

Main Report

Background

Each year, the Department for Education allocates funding to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. This funding is made up of:

- school condition allocations (SCA), given to eligible bodies responsible for maintaining school buildings
- devolved formula capital (DFC), allocated to schools and other eligible institutions

For the year ended 31 March 2020 the Trust has received £573,886 of capital funding from the ESFA's School Condition Allocation. This cash is currently held in the central MAT bank account. The Trust has also received a total of £107,724 DFC which has been received by each of the academies directly. 2019-20 is the first year that COLAT is eligible for the SCA.

The ESFA provides strict guidance on what the SCA can be used for in schools (investment should be prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues) but it is up to the Trust to determine how the funding is allocated between the eight academies. The central Trust team have developed an application form for the eight academies to use to apply for a share of the 2019-20 SCA. These applications will then be reviewed and prioritised by the central MAT team with consideration given to criteria such as health and safety issues, energy efficiency, current age and condition of the site (and how well this has been maintained to date), teaching and learning requirements and alternative funding available (e.g. reserves held locally by schools).

The 2019-20 application form and supporting guidance for the academies is attached as an appendix to this paper. The assessment criteria detailed in the attached document are very similar to the criteria used by the ESFA/DfE in assessing CIF bids from single academy trusts and smaller MATs.

Once the applications have been submitted and the assessment is complete, the proposed distribution of the 2019-20 SCA will be presented to the FARC for review and approval.

Recommendation

The Committee members are asked to review and note the 2019-20 application form and supporting guidance for schools.

Appendix

1. SCA Application Form and supporting guidance for COLAT academies