



Burford School and the Marlow Education Trust

FAQs re: Facilities and estates management

Is it correct that if you join a MAT you are then responsible for all costs for any building repairs?

No. At the moment, if we have building repairs that need to be done, we can bid for funding from the LA. (E.g. when we refurbished the Year 2 toilets, the LA paid for some of the work.) As part of a MAT, if we had similar repairs that needed doing, the MET could submit a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid on our behalf. Only academies can apply for CIF money, which is paid directly by the DfE. In addition to this, the reserves held by the MET can be used to support schools with extraordinary expenditure such as unexpected building works.

Do the MET hold funds to pay for large-scale building repairs that would no longer be covered by the local authority?

As stated above, the first port of call for large-scale building repairs would be a CIF bid, which would mean the money coming from the DfE rather than from either Burford or the MET. If a CIF bid was unsuccessful, the money might come from the school's budget, or it might be partly funded from the MET's reserves.

If the MET expands further, it will be given an annual School Condition Allocation (SCA) by the DfE which would be ring-fenced for building maintenance for the schools in the Trust. (MATs are eligible for SCA once they have five or more schools with a total of at least 3,000 pupils.)

How are decisions made about prioritising capital works across the Trust? What criteria are used, and how are schools consulted?

The MET prioritises work across all schools in their 3-year estates plan. Priorities would be based on health and safety concerns, followed by educational need. We expect that schools would be informed, rather than consulted, over this. We believe that the 3-year estates plan would give us greater transparency over capital spending decisions, compared to our current situation with the LA.

Have Burford's buildings been inspected to see if we may need urgent repairs in the near future? / Has the condition of Burford's buildings been assessed as part of the due diligence process?

A survey was conducted in July, and no significant issues were found.

Would we retain funds acquired from the private lettings of our buildings?

Yes.

Are there any planned or outstanding premises issues at other schools in the MAT that might require significant investment from central funds?

[Answer to follow; but, as stated above, the 3-year estates plan would give us transparency over this.]

Will we retain any say in how our premises are used or adapted for future needs, such as expansion or changes to provision?

[Answer to follow]