Previous recommendation:

10. Approve the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions as set out in paragraphs 1.4.19 in accordance with the virement rules;

Amended recommendation:

10. Approve the changes to the existing Capital Programme in relation to additions as set out in paragraph 1.4.19 and the addendum to the report, in accordance with the virement rules;

Addendum

The Schools Modernisation programme seeks to improve schools within the borough, focussing on upgrading and modernising existing facilities through boiler repairs, mechanical work, electrical work and general building repairs and maintenance.

The current approved capital programme is funded through a grant awarded by the Department for Education, the Schools Conditions Allocation grant.

On 15th April 2020, the Department for Education announced the Schools Conditions Allocation grant award for 2020/21 of £2.211m. This seeks to top up existing grant balances currently held by the council; the balance including the 2020/21 allocation will stand at £4.722m once the monies have been paid over to the council. This is the amount the Modernisation programme will have available to fund its programme of works for 2020/21.

The programme of works for the financial year 2020/21 includes both slippage and new schemes that have been identified by officers as repairs that are critical to the schools. It is anticipated that significant progress on these schemes will be made over the summer, during the school summer holidays. The total value of these works amounts to £4.788m for 2020/21 leaving a shortfall of £0.066m. This will be funded through the Basic Needs grant, a separate funding stream available to the council, which affords flexibility in its use to be applied to the Schools Modernisation programme.

This would require an addition to the current, approved Modernisation capital programme budget of £2.980m.