

News

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North Yorkshire completes £20m school capital investment

North Yorkshire County Council has completed a major programme of capital investment in schools.

More than 50 schools have had building works done, much of it undertaken through the summer months, including new classrooms, replacement of old prefabricated classrooms and other improvements.

In total during 2012/13 more than £20m has been invested in North Yorkshire schools including improvements which schools themselves have planned and emergency works.

Despite big reductions in the amount of money available, the county council has continued to prioritise investment in its schools. Many schools have seen their roofs, windows and floors replaced, and others have had upgrades to heating and electrical systems.

County Councillor Arthur Barker, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Schools said: "At a time when the county council is facing significant reductions in the money that is available to invest in school buildings it is important that we focus our investment in the right areas.

"The county council must provide enough extra school places for North Yorkshire children at a time of rising pupil rolls whilst continuing to direct investment at improving the quality of existing school buildings and ensuring they remain safe, warm and weather-tight. This will make sure that pupils throughout North Yorkshire will continue to enjoy high quality learning environments".

The county council, its property partners Jacobs and a number of building contractors work closely with schools to ensure that all works are delivered safely and that the potential for disruption is minimised. Wherever possible works were undertaken during the summer holidays.

Cllr Barker added: "Delivering programmes of work of this nature within schools can be difficult as it requires a lot of effort from all concerned within a concentrated amount of time. I would like to thank all of the contractors involved in the successful delivery of the programme of work this year'.

Debra Vines, School Business Manager at Tadcaster Grammar School said: "Sections of the flat roof over the science block were replaced over the summer holidays together with new skylights. The work was not finished until the beginning of this month due to more extensive repairs being required.

"The contractor completed the work with minimum disruption to the school and dealt with members of school staff in a courteous manner at all times. They kept the school aware of all stages of development and always dealt with queries promptly."



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A further programme of works is planned for next summer and the county council is already working to identify priorities for investment beyond April 2014 which will be finalised once the county council receives notification of its capital allocation from the Government, expected to be in December 2013.

Cllr Barker said: "Many improvement schemes have now been completed. I would like to thank headteachers, staff, parents and pupils for how they have worked with us to make sure the building schemes haven't caused undue disruption. I wish them all well as the academic year progresses."

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