

Capital Strategy Group

Thursday 3 April 2008

Present: Cllr Eady (Chair), Cllr Samuel, Beverly Butler, Paul Bettles, Claire Briggs, Tammi Brown, Elaine England, Christine Brett, Dave Talbot, Ron Percival, Brian Holder
Apologies: Cllr King, Jason Bickerstaff

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions and apologies

Elaine England was formally welcomed to the group.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bob King and Jason Bickerstaff who has taken over John Russell's position as Diocesan Board representative.

2. Declarations of interest

Item 5 (External and Kitchen work bids) – Elaine England, Ron Percival, Dave Talbot

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2007 were circulated again to members as well as the summary of responses from the cancelled meeting on 29 January 2008. Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

A cabinet report was circulated with the papers regarding the Collis project.

BB/Cllr Eady explained the difficulties that arose on this project between the architects and contractor. There were processes in place but various legal and contractual issues arose following additional instructions.

The Council are moving away from traditional procurement methods to try and avoid these situations in the future, preferring to follow Design and Build contracts which transfers more risk onto the contractors rather than the Council. An example of this is the SECE (South East Centre of Excellence) framework which has been adopted for the Teddington School rebuild.

It was suggested that we refrain from using the Collis contractors/architects again.

Cllr Eady commented that to rebuild the Stanley Schools would be very expensive (in the region of £16m) therefore it is extremely unlikely this will go ahead without Government funding.

BH commented that schools with flat roofs and internal drainage could be an issue in the future.

The group asked for a list of boiler priorities for the next meeting along with dates and costs.

BB

5. External and kitchen works bids – matched funding 2008/2009

A spreadsheet was circulated summarising all of the schools bids. This included a suggested a priority rating for the group to consider. This generated further discussion with the outcome that the group accepted recommendations on the priorities.

In future need to set the criteria for schools to submit bids against and that priorities will be determined earlier in the process.

It was suggested that maybe the Local Authority could look into a Borough wide contract for any kitchen works to try and negotiate costs?

BB

It was noted by Cllr Samuel that a few schools had problems with one specific landscape contractor and this should be raised with the Procurement Team that deal with the appropriate approved list of contractors.

Cllr Samuel also commented that he was against the replacement of windows with UPVC.

6. School premises and development plans

BB advised that not all schools have masterplans and we want to be consistent and come up with a plan where we all agree the priorities.

This has been discussed at primary heads forum.

An example will be circulated.

BB/CB

It was agreed that this was a good idea and that we should focus on the primary schools first for the primary capital programme and Primary Strategy for Change.

7. Safety critical maintenance

Historically, funding had been devolved to schools for a lot of safety critical maintenance issues.

Water hygiene programme of works is currently being worked through by the Local Authority in order to bring schools up to a certain standard then it will be the schools responsibility to maintain thereafter.

Asbestos surveys – type 2 surveys have been undertaken for community schools however for VA schools this is the Governors responsibility. BB will circulate the DCSF guidance on health and safety and responsibilities for VA schools. Link also on Health & Safety extranet pages.

Christine Brett commented it is important this is also circulated to Governing bodies.

Hard wire testing – again for VA schools this is the responsibility of the Governing body. Christine Brett will speak to the Diocese about this.

8. Any other business

Cllr Samuel commented that the size of the font on spreadsheet for external and kitchen works bids was too small.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3 July 2008, 5pm. The Salon, York House.