

# Capital Strategy Group

Wednesday 21 January 2009, 5pm

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**Present:** Cllr Eady (Chair), Cllr King, Cllr Marlow, Christine Brett, Elaine England, Paul Bettles, Beverly Butler, Claire Briggs

**Apologies:** Jo Longhurst, Ron Percival, John Russell

## Minutes

## Action

### 1. Apologies

See above

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Marlow declared an interest on item 5 (as a Governor at Orleans Park School) when Jo Longhurst's comments on the Education Capital Programme were shared with the group.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2008 were agreed.

### 4. Matters arising

Procurement methods – BB advise that a report went to Cabinet on 19 January 2009.

Kitchens – The first phase expression of interest was submitted to the DCSF on 19 December 2008. There is an item at the next schools forum on 22 January to discuss this with schools further before the second phase is submitted on 28 February 2009. The DCSF have informed LA's that expressions of interests received totalled £200m and there is only £100m to allocate.

School Development Plans – no progress to report. BB advised that for the next meeting a pro-forma will have been produced.

Asbestos – Guidance was sent to schools and Chairs of Governors via Building Bulletin 69 (10 December 2008). A letter has also been sent to schools about their responsibilities concerning asbestos on 22 January via e-mail from Nick Whitfield, Director Of Education & Children's Services. The Health & Safety Unit will follow this up with some training courses for Headteachers and Premises Staff in the summer term.

St Mary Magdalen's – Cllr Eady thanked all those involved in the contingency plans, and the schools that temporarily housed classes during that period.

Primary Expansions – the consultation document was published on 5 January 2009 and the closing date for comments is 2 February. A report will then go to Cabinet on 23 February

### 5. Education Capital Programme 2009/2010

No comments were received from schools.

Jo Longhurst made comments at the same time as giving apologies regarding secondary schools who are not involved in the BSF or potential academy schemes, still requiring capital next year to continue moving forward with improvements and development of buildings.

BB advised the group that the Council are seeking other ways of looking at funding secondary and special schools. A meeting is being scheduled for Gillian

Norton, Chief Executive and Jim Knight, Schools Minister, shortly to discuss funding issues. In the meantime the Building Development Team are continuing to submit bids for potential funds. A meeting has been scheduled for 27 February with secondary and special school Headteachers to discuss how things can move forward.

The LA have submitted their BSF (Building Schools for the Future) Expression of Interest, and will continue to look at all funding opportunities that we may be able to apply for.

Cllr Eady summarised the funding received so far in terms of the Primary Capital Programme, and it is simply not enough and also discussed the need for school places hence the first three years of funding will go towards school expansions.

### **Hampton Junior School**

Funding was agreed some time ago for £300,000. This was to address the Health & Safety issues within the main school hall, circulation, storage and reception area space. Initial feasibility studies included a new hall that extended out of the front of the building but advice from planners was that as a building of townscape merit this would be unlikely to be acceptable to planners. Further options were then considered, including glass-based buildings in symmetry to the front of the building to accommodate improved entrance / reception area without detracting from the façade of the building with the hall positioned to one side of the main block to the rear of the building – however, this was deemed unlikely to be acceptable to planners for the frontage and did not entirely meet the school requirements within the internal layout. A re-think was needed and the school would like to pursue the redevelopment of the canteen / kitchen block to replace it with a flexible space that could be used for indoor PE / games and for dining – this would ease the pressures on the existing school hall and circulation and storage. However, this would require more time for the development of the scheme plus the raising of additional funds. In the interim, the school has requested £30,000 to include a standalone flexible space that could be used for meetings, particularly for multi-agency meetings. The school feels this would go some way to easing some pressure on available space. This would be located near the art block and would therefore be unlikely to create any planning issues. The school would also like consideration to be given to carry forward the balance of the £300,000 to a revised project.

It was proposed that Hampton Junior School should be offered the £30,000, on the basis that they can satisfy the group that the smaller project would provide some relief to the problems facing the school.

With the pipework issue highlighted below it is also suggested that the balance is held back to address this issue or be used to support other school projects.

The lead issue is something that the Building Development Team needs to look at in more detail. Thames Water have advised us that the acceptable level of lead content in water will be lowered in 2013. The LA has therefore agreed to commission testing of all schools' water to clarify the position in terms of any works that may have to be undertaken at any sites.

BB

## **6. Updates**

### **Primary Strategy for Change**

The primary consultation document has been published with responses needed by 2 February 2009. Work is progressing in the meantime of projects at St Mary's and St Peter's, Holy Trinity, Orleans Infant, St Stephen's, Stanley Infant and Stanley Junior Schools and Chase Bridge. All projects are subject to

outcome of the consultation process, statutory proposal approval and planning approval.

Information and updates on these projects as they develop will be added to the website.

### **Building Schools for the Future**

The Local Authority has submitted the response to the DCSF to request that the main Richmond BSF programme is brought forward, however, it is thought that in the current climate this is unlikely to happen.

Teddington School rebuild – the latest newsletter was circulated to members of the groups.

### **7. Any other business**

BB advised that the third payment of DFC has just been made to schools.

Second and final Harnessing Technology Grant allocation to be paid to schools next week.

The next LCVAP meeting will take place on 2 February. Christine Brett asked to be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 29 April 2009, 5pm. Inspectorate meeting room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
REGAL HOUSE**