

Capital Strategy Group

Wednesday 8 February 2006, 5pm

Room 7, York House

Present: Cllr Samuel (Chairman), Cllr Eady, Cllr Taylor, Mr Jerman, Mr Talbot, Mr Percival, Mr Holder, Paul Bettles, Beverly Butler, Claire Briggs.

Apologies: Mr Russell, Ms Flint, Ms Brett, Cllr King

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions

Cllr Eady (substitute for Cllr King) and Mr Talbot (substitute for Ms Flint) were formally welcomed to the Group

2. Apologies

See above.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eady declared an interest as a Governor of St. Mary's and St Peter's CE Primary School.

Mr Talbot is the Headteacher of Orleans Park School.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December were agreed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder

The Building Development Officer gave an update to the Group.

Representatives from the Council attended a briefing meeting with the DfES on 27 January with three other Authorities, Bexley, Barnet and Kingston. The information discussed was based on documentation circulated previously.

The LEA has to provide further information to the DfES by 31 March 2006, then in April a design event is being hosted by the DfES for all LEA's involved. Throughout the process LEA's will have to provide the DfES with quarterly update reports. The outcome will be known in late April or early May.

Cllr Samuel's opinion was that the timescale to complete the build is very unrealistic.

7. Draft Education Capital Programme 2006/2007

In the December meeting Cllr Samuel deferred all supplementary bids to be considered for inclusion on the programme, and advised they would be looked at in February. These four bids were circulated. The Building Development Officer summarised each bid to the Group before they deliberated which should be included within the programme.

Mr Percival declared an interest, as Governor of East Sheen Primary School, therefore did not participate in any discussions or decisions made.

The general consensus was that any bids for kitchen modifications/upgrades, at

this time, should be put on hold to see if there will be any guidance provided by Government in the near future. The Group agreed that critical condition items such as roofs and boilers should take priority.

It was agreed that Collis boiler (not including convection heaters) should be included on the Education Capital Programme and the reserve project should be East Sheen Primary's bid for improvements to the reception classroom. It was provisionally agreed that £70,000 could possibly be contributed to these works, however this would be subject to monies becoming available pending tender return costings from the other projects on the programme.

Information on the Building Schools for the Future - Primary Initiative has yet to be announced, therefore the LEA are not in a position to advise on funding or when we may receive any. However the Building Development Officer is keen to get Primary schools ready for this opportunity by ensuring that a 'master plan' is prepared for every school.

Cllr Samuel suggested it would be very useful for a member of the Treasurer's Group, possibly Mark Maidment, to attend a meeting at the beginning of the next set of meetings to give advice on issues such as borrowing and the DfES's approach, and also on bids from schools on funding larger projects.

CB/PB

8. Update on Secondary and Special School Investment Programme

The Building Development Officer gave an update on all of the projects underway on this scheme. The update will be available on the website with these minutes.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr Samuel took the opportunity to summarise three considerable advances the Capital Strategy Group have made.

1. The Group have set clear criteria/guidelines for the allocation of funding available in terms of schools submitting bids;
2. Have abolished the notion of allocating schools frequent but smaller amounts of money for various repairs, in favour of allocating fewer but larger sums of money to schools to deal with larger scale problems with school premises;
3. Considerable improvement in the Asset Management Plan data collected from schools and submission to the DfES since the Ofsted report in 2001. Cllr Samuel thanked Officers for their part in this.

Cllr Samuel also thanked all colleagues on the Capital Strategy Group specifically Cllr King for his knowledge of education, and also Ms Flint's attendance on the group as a highly experienced Headteacher whose knowledge has been invaluable.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24 May 2006, 5pm.