

Capital Strategy Group
Tuesday 6 December 2005, 5pm
Salon, York House

Present: Cllr Samuel (Chairman), Cllr Taylor, Ms C Brett, Ms H Flint, Mr J Russell, Mr R Percival, Mr B Holder, Paul Bettles, Beverly Butler Claire Briggs

Apologies: Cllr King, Mr W Jerman

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions/Apologies

Apologies from Cllr King and Mr W Jerman.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2005 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

5. £23Million Building Schools for the Future One-School Pathfinder

Beverly Butler, Building Development Officer reported that as part of the consultation process to decide on which of the two secondary schools will receive the £23m BSF Pathfinder funding, presentations were given by the Headteachers of Teddington & Whitton Schools to the Education and Culture Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committee. The result of the Committee members vote was 5 abstentions, 3 in support of Teddington School and 2 in support of Whitton School.

Comments have been requested from schools by 16 January 2006.

An issue to be taken into account in the final decision is the possibility of abnormal costs such as contaminated land, access to site and problems with foundations over both sites – these should not exceed 5%.

After discussion and raising matters of transport link accessibility, demountable accommodation, serving in-borough pupils, shortage of places, popularity & extended school provision, members were asked to express a preference. Two members supported Teddington School, one member expressed a view that Whitton's extended school provision was worth supporting and another member agreed with this view, a further two abstained.

The O&S Committee recommendation will be presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2006 together with any views received in writing before that date.

6. Draft Education Programme 2006/07

Beverly Butler presented the draft education capital programme to the group.

- The school that will receive the £23M BSF Pathfinder funding, will not appear on the final programme thus reducing the estimated budget price

total, bringing it more into line with the funding available

- 2 late bids will be deferred until the next meeting
- It may be possible to utilise any funding received through the Primary programme, equivalent to the Secondary BSF, to assist specific bids (e.g. Stanley Infant School) but the timing and allocation is currently unknown.

The group agreed the programme, taking into account that either the Teddington School or Whitton Schools will be covered by £23m BSF Pathfinder funding.

7. Children's Centres

The LEA has received capital and revenue funding from the Government to establish Children's Centres. The Government has issued a paper providing guideline criteria that LEA's must achieve in order to ensure that the most disadvantaged families will have access to the services. A 'core' model has been outlined (for areas of deprivation). A 'flexible' model has also been outlined that will incorporate areas that do not fall under the deprivation category. LBRuT has 2 core centres planned in the Heathfield & Ham wards.

It was reported to the group that matters such as inspection formalities and funding for training have not yet been decided upon. A Children's Centres project Steering Group has been set up to monitor and review the establishment of the centres – members include Headteachers, LEA representatives, Job Centre Plus employees and Primary Care Trust employees.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr Samuel reminded group members that they are representatives for other schools and Governors and it is their responsibility to bring their thoughts and comments to the group.

Ms Flint advised the group that she will be unable to attend the next meeting therefore Mr Talbot will attend in her absence. Mr Talbot will also become the permanent secondary Headteacher representative from March 2006 when Ms Flint leaves her post as Headteacher at Waldegrave School for Girls for pastures new.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 February 2006, 5pm