

Capital Strategy Group

Wednesday 1 December 2004

Room 7, York House. 5pm

Present: Cllr Samuel (Chairman), Cllr King, Cllr Taylor, Mr John Russell, Ms Christine Brett, Ms Heather Flint, Mr Bill Jerman, Mrs Pam Crisp, Mr Brian Holder, Jessica Saraga, Beverly Butler, Claire Briggs

Apologies:

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

It was raised that the minutes on Grey Court did not reflect what was discussed. The minutes should have read that members queried whether Beacon Status money had been spent on ICT.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairman advised the group that the DfES announcement on 30 November regarding the Building Schools for the Future programme confirmed that Richmond has not been included in waves 2 or 3. The Council will therefore proceed with the Secondary and Special School Investment Programme. Free school meals data and GCSE results were used as the basis for prioritisation. A report to Cabinet on 7 December outlines the feasibility studies received and recommends which school projects should proceed.

Update on Condition Surveys – The Building Development Officer reported that the five pilot surveys had been received from Dearle and Henderson. The remaining school surveys should be complete by the end of February 2005. Dearle and Henderson have started to contact schools via fax to ascertain if any may be able to offer access over the Christmas holiday period.

5. Confirmation of decision taken for Buckingham School and Sheen Mount School

The Chairman referred to the previously circulated request for an increase to the budget for projects at Buckingham and Sheen Mount Primary Schools, which was subsequently agreed by the Group. The Chairman had declared an interest as a governor at Buckingham School.

PC expressed a general concern that tenders had come in a lot higher than the pre-tender estimates, with a difference of about 5%. The Chairman explained that Standing Orders provide that if the difference between pre-tender and tender prices exceeds 10% then a decision to proceed must be agreed by the Director, the Cabinet Member or the Cabinet.

The Chairman had asked Corporate Property Services why these differences should arise and has been told that with the expanding national programme there is huge pressure on the building industry, with a severe problem in London, which in turn leads to increased costs. The Council will be considering how to spread works over the year rather than concentrating them in the

summer period to limit additional costs.

In future if tenders are returned at a higher price than originally estimated, the group will be informed.

6. Notification of DfES Funding

Waves 2 and 3 of the Building Schools for the Future programme have now been announced. It is expected that LBRuT will fall in one of the last waves.

The LEA's Capital allocations for 2005/2006, as advised by the DfES, were tabled at the meeting.

The initially unsuccessful Targeted Capital Fund bid that was submitted in October 2003 has now been revisited by the DfES and we have been advised that LBRuT have been allocated £3.8million borrowing. This will enable the LEA to proceed with the original proposal for Collis Primary School for Primary Enrichment for modern foreign languages and music.

A concern was raised by Mr Jerman that the press coverage at the time portrayed the proposal as a centre of excellence and this would have an impact on Hampton as an area. It was suggested that it should be marketed as a centre for all schools not just for a particular locality.

7. Funding New Pupil Places

There is an increase in the allocation for New Pupil Places, however this can be accumulated to enable us to put towards larger projects. A portion of this funding will be put towards the ASD Unit at Whitton School to provide additional places for pupils.

8. Draft Education Capital Programme 2005/2006

Members were given the draft programme which included projects at a cost of over £5million. The actual funding available amounts to £2,645,081. The group were asked to prioritise the projects for inclusion at this time. The group agreed that the main criteria for selection were items that if not addressed could potentially close the school. The following projects have been selected to be included on the 2005/2006 programme which will be submitted to Cabinet in February for approval.

Stanley Infant School Boiler replacement - £110,000
Oldfield House boiler replacement & renew controls & fan convectors £140,000
Buckingham Primary boiler replacement - £155,000
East Sheen Primary boiler replacement - £90,000
Chase Bridge renew hot & cold water pipework - £85,000
Stanley Junior School electrical works - £40,000
Richmond House roof & external works - £250,000
Shene International Electrical works - £140,000
Teddington replacement of rented demountables - £200,000
Whitton curtain wall - £125,000
Project Management - £35,000
Fire Safety - £50,000
Health & Safety - £200,000
Security - £100,000
Water Treatment Surveys - £150,000
Maintain Condition Surveys - £25,000
Feasibility Studies - £75,000
Repayment Schools' Capital matched funding programme - £15,000
Contingency - £100,000

Total allocated £2,085,000

The LEA were requested to reduce items 19 – 27 by a sum of £100,000. This

has been reflected in the figures listed above.

£560,081 left over

Reserve projects –

HCC Flat roof renewal - £250,000

Waldegrave Learning Support Unit - £45,000

Strathmore School external decorations - £30,000

Teddington electrics - £140,000

Projects listed are based on estimated budget prices and the programme can only fully develop as tender prices are received. Therefore all projects will remain on the list for possible inclusion at a later stage. When the Group meet in February, further consideration will be given to those projects not yet included above. The updated Condition Surveys and the outcome of feasibility reports may inform the process.

9. Grey Court Specialist Status Bid

HF gave an overview of the history of the school's bid. After the school's Ofsted inspection its priorities changed and the money was subsequently spent on health and safety issues. A new proposal was therefore put forward which was ICT based. It was also noted that Grey Court had spent all of the Devolved Formula Capital allocations for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. Further information provided by the school regarding Beacon Status funding was also circulated to members.

A vote was taken and a majority of 5 – 1 (3 abstentions) agreed that Grey Court should not be awarded the additional funding.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8 February 2005.

Items for discussion at the next meeting –

- The list of projects that have not been included in the programme will be prioritised.
- The issue of whether refurbished schools should receive Devolved Formula Capital and whether a representation to the DfES is needed?
- The Russell Capital Bid update.