

Capital Strategy Group

Tuesday 7 September

Room 7, York House. 4.30pm

Present: Cllr Samuel (Chairman), Cllr King, Ms Christine Brett, Mr Brian Holder, Mr Bill Jerman, Mr John Russell

Officers: Jessica Saraga, Assistant Director, EAL
Paul Chadwick, Assistant Director, Property & Procurement
Beverly Butler, Building Development Officer, EAL
Claire Briggs, Building Development Assistant, EAL

Apologies: Cllr Taylor, Mrs Pam Crisp, Ms Heather Flint

| Minutes | Action |
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| 1. Apologies | |
| Mrs Crisp offered her apologies, as did Ms Flint who had to attend a leadership meeting. Ms Flint had sought to arrange for a substitute headteacher to attend the meeting, but was unsuccessful due to their prior commitments. | |
| 2. Declarations of interest | |
| Mr Holder declared an interest in St Mary's CE Primary School as his grand daughter attends the school. | |
| 3. Minutes of last meeting | |
| The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2004 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of what was discussed. | |
| 4. Matters arising | |
| No matters arising. | |
| 5. Grey Court Specialist School Status bid | |
| In her absence, Ms Flint reported via the Building Development Officer that she was pleased Orleans Park School had been awarded £39,000 for their specialist college development, and supported Grey Court's request for £49,400. | |
| Whilst members agreed that capital funding already spent on Grey Court over the last year has been necessary, they expressed doubts about agreeing further funding. | |
| It was agreed that the decision be deferred until the next meeting, when a secondary headteacher is in attendance, pending further details of the full specialist status bid and confirmation of whether the school receives funding for its beacon status. | |
| 6. Secondary and Special Investment programme | |
| With the LEA still unsure of its position within the <i>Building Schools for the Future</i> programme, Cllr Samuel reported that the Council is still committed with its own ten-year Secondary and Special Investment programme. However in light of the Government's emerging policy on foundation status, as set out in its <i>Five Year Strategy for children and Young People</i> , the Council proposes to proceed only with the feasibility reports for the identified priorities (outlined in the Director's letter of 2 September 2004 to all secondary and special headteachers). The Chairman expressed his hope that the programme can proceed as originally | |

proposed for the start of the 2005 financial year once clarification is received from the DfES about their proposals for the status of secondary school land.

7. Draft Education Capital programme

Mr Chadwick, Assistant Director, Property and Procurement, attended the meeting for this item to update members on the current position with regard to schools' condition surveys.

The Building Development Officer explained that this time last year there was a pre-draft capital programme available for comment. However, the 2005/2006 programme is not yet available due to the delay in successfully updating the condition surveys.

Mr Chadwick stated that officers are still awaiting the first batch of surveys from Dearle and Henderson, the consultants instructed to carry out a pilot of five schools. Officers have been informed that these should be received within the next ten days. Once received, the reports will be subject to review, for quality assurance, and an assessment of how quickly the remainder can be completed. Mr Chadwick advised that alternatives were being considered in case a new consultant has to be appointed. However, this would inevitably delay the process. An assurance was given that VA schools will receive their condition surveys when complete.

A capital programme bid form has been received from Leisure Services for a floodlit artificial turf pitch at Shene International School (see report attached to agenda). This will eventually be included in the draft programme, for discussion. It was agreed that any similar requests will be circulated to members of the Group as they are received.

The Chairman requested that if a programme is not available by the next meeting (1 December 2004), it be rescheduled, and this was agreed, providing there is sufficient notice.

8. Workspace Grant – reallocation of balance

The Building Development Officer advised that there is currently a balance of £5,941 unallocated. Members agreed this should go to Heathfield Infants who are currently completing a large project to extend their staffroom and office area, and who have recently had to request an advance in next year's devolved capital to cover additional costs incurred.

East Sheen Primary School had initially been allocated £5,000 towards an extension to their staffroom. The school decided, after receiving quotes higher than anticipated, that they now want to change their proposal. The money should have been spent by 31 August 2004. Members decided that if the school could not propose a satisfactory proposal by 30th September then this £5,000 should also be allocated to Heathfield Nursery and Infant School.

9. Seed Challenge – reallocation of balance

The Building Development Officer advised that there is £9,149 unallocated for the 2004/2005 Seed Challenge fund.

Members agreed that it should first be offered to Darell Primary School for its outdoor learning area. If they could not match fund this amount then it should be split between Hampton Community College (new staff offices) and Holy Trinity (nursery outdoor area).

10. Scheme for financing schools

Cllr Samuel asked members of the group to agree to his recommendation that the cut-off point below which funding will not be considered from the Education Capital Budget should be amended. Rather than £30,000 for primary schools

and £70,000 for secondary schools, the cut-off point should be one year's allocation of devolved formula capital. This was agreed.

11. Any other business

A list of Corporate Property building projects that were on site over the summer 2004 was tabled for information. Members commented that the number of projects being progressed was very positive.

Whitton School fires – The Building Development Officer reported that Corporate Property Services have produced a specification and assigned contractors to carry out the repair works, which are currently in progress.

A question was raised regarding one of the Borough's PFI school's nursery provision, and whether there would still be a sessional nursery in three years time. The Assistant Director advised that the original PFI contract would need to be consulted.

12. Date of next meeting (to be confirmed shortly)

Wednesday 1 December 2004 - 5pm, Room 7, York House