

Capital Strategy Group

Tuesday 28 November 2006, 5pm

Room 7, York House

Present: Cllr M Eady (Chairman), Cllr G Samuel, Cllr B Miller (substitute for Cllr King), Mr W Jerman, Ms C Brett, Mr D Talbot, Mr J Russell, Mr R Percival, Mr B Holder, Beverly Butler, Paul Bettles, Claire Briggs
Apologies: Cllr B King

Minutes

Action

1. Introductions and Apologies

The Group introduced themselves for the new Chairman Cllr Eady.
Cllr Bob King gave apologies and Cllr Brian Miller attended in his absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 8 February 2006 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

Only a point made that the last meeting set for July was cancelled.

5. Draft Education Capital Programme 2007/2008

The draft Education Capital Programme for 2007/08 was circulated to members of the group. The Building Development Manager went through all of the projects and commentary to explain why these projects have been included.

With the boiler replacement works it is intended to look at alternative renewable energy sources wherever possible. With the Whitton School boilers we will be looking to see how this fits in with the master plan that is currently being developed.

With regard to the larger scale projects, Hampton Junior School hall development has moved on and the school are looking at ways to provide additional funding. Nelson Primary School phase one, Ofsted highlighted in their report that the reception classrooms were too small, the school have confirmed they will be contributing at least £100,000 towards these works.

Strathmore Centre external works will cover necessary repair works to the fabric of the building. The Skills Centre is following on from the successful works already completed which included practical areas for teaching hairdressing etc.

Advance on Schools Capital

The DfES have offered Authorities an advance on schools' capital. For the London Borough of Richmond's Community Schools this will equate to £937,783 of modernisation funding and for VA schools £234,000 from the LCVAP programme. The Building Development Manager stated that we would gain an advantage by taking this grant funding as by the time it comes to receiving less in three years time we will have moved on with the Every Child Matters Primary Capital Programme. The DfES have suggested sustainability/energy and

kitchen priorities should be considered when deciding on projects to benefit from this funding. The VA advance would need to be spent by March 2008 and Community School funding by 31 August 2008 at the latest.

It is possible that we could identify projects for this funding. East Sheen Primary School, at the last meeting, were placed on the reserve list for 2006/07 for £70,000 for their reception classrooms. Similar scale projects have been identified at Lowther Primary and Sheen Mount Primary School.

BH raised that Stanley Infant and Nursery School will soon be looking to fund phase 2 of their master plan and CB raised that Heathfield Infant and Junior Schools could also be 'ready to go' with the Children's Centre and master plan being developed for any funding opportunities in the near future.

Cllr Eady suggested that community schools be asked to bid for this funding. The Building Development Manager has already looked at condition, suitability and free school meal data (the three indicators) and ranked schools in order of need to show works that we have completed, works we will be undertaking and issues that still need to be addressed so we are following a justified pattern. A letter will be sent to schools with a form to submit their bids in the next Building Bulletin.

RP raised the questions will larger projects be completed by August 2008? It will be made clear that when schools submit bids they will not be considered if they cannot demonstrate that works will be completed and spent by 31 August 2008.

Every Child Matters Primary Capital Programme

A programme will need to be agreed for VA and Community Schools. The Building Development Manager confirmed that 20% may get a rebuild, 30% a remodel/refurbishment and the remaining 50% will have to utilise devolved formula capital, however it is unclear at present whether these percentages are per authority or nationwide.

6. Subject for school bids for funding - £150,000

Schools were asked via the Building Bulletin to make suggestions as to what their priorities would be for this funding. The results were circulated to the Group. The highest priority was external areas. This was agreed by the Group.

7. Updates from the Building Development Manager

Building Schools for the Future One School Pathfinder

BDP (Building Design Partnership) have been appointed as the architects and a planning consultant has also been appointed through BDP. No designs have been produced yet.

An initial consultation evening will be held at Teddington School on Thursday 30th November for parents and local residents.

The programme that is being worked to is that the new school will be open for September 2009. The 14-19 agenda is still to be determined, the results from the open competition will be known next year and the aim is to go to planning in April 2007, with four months being allowed for this process.

Secondary and Special Investment Programme

Cllr Eady confirmed this has been increased from £3m to £5m a year. Whitton is in desperate need of works which cannot wait until Richmond enter the BSF programme therefore it is being looked at to utilise some of this money over three or four years, with a couple of million left over each year to concentrate on other secondary/special schools. No timescales have been set to date.

Outcome of Primary Capital Programme

Unfortunately Richmond were unsuccessful in their bid to be a pilot authority for this programme. Four other London Authorities were awarded this status. However the feedback received from the DfES on Richmond's bid was positive.

8. Any other business

The Building Development Manager noted that outside of the meeting it was confirmed that Hampton Community College have been awarded the £50,000 Capital Matched Funding and Stanley Junior School no longer require the other £50,000.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th January 2007, 5pm. Room 7, York House