
Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services Advisory Panel

7 December 2006

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Capital Programme Proposals 2007/08 and 2008/09

Summary

1. This report:
 - Offers members a proposed programme of capital expenditure for major and minor projects against the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 DfES Local Authority (LA) Formula Capital funding.
 - Provides Members with information on the Schools Access Initiative (SAI) for 2007/08, and proposes a programme of capital expenditure against the fund.
 - Reports the results of the bidding round for capital support for Extended Schools to date.
 - Proposes a procurement route for the provision of a new building for Joseph Rowntree School under the BSF One-School Pathfinder project.

LA Formula Capital

Background

2. The process of allocating the LA's formula capital funding to schools against a published set of criteria was approved by members in 2003/04. Feedback from schools has been positive and it is proposed that the bidding round system be retained and developed.

Consultation

3. Every school was circulated with the details of the bidding round and application forms early in the summer term.

Analysis

4. The recent bidding round saw bids totalling over £9.5 million from 41 schools.
5. The results of the scoring process are shown in Annex 1 with a total of 12 major and 12 minor bids being recommended for support. Projects are shown

individually as it is the only practical way that the scoring can be done. However, a requirement of DfES and an Asset Management Plan (AMP) priority is that a 'whole school approach' is taken and as much work as can practically be included in a project will be, rather than using a 'patch and mend' philosophy. For this reason, schools still submit their AMPs and are asked to demonstrate how a bid fits into the school's long term planning.

Schools Access Initiative

Background

6. The Schools Access Initiative (SAI) of £271,000 for 2007/08, is provided by the DfES to support projects that improve the accessibility of mainstream schools to disabled pupils. LAs are encouraged to consider access as part of all capital building works.
7. Under the Disability Discrimination Act, which came into force from September 2002, all schools have had an Access Plan in place since 1st April 2003 and schools are encouraged to plan for and address their basic access requirements themselves. This enables the LA to concentrate on funding larger and more comprehensive access projects within the limits of the funds allocated. Priority continues to focus on the access requirements of individual children who are either currently attending a particular school or who will be attending a particular school in the near future. The remaining resources form a strategic programme of physical alterations, which meet the national agenda of inclusion.

Analysis

8. Bidding was open to all schools and 21 bids amounting to £458,685 were received. These were ranked and prioritised using the following criteria:
 - Where schools currently have a disabled pupil or will be taking one in the near future
 - Where major capital works will improve access to schools
 - Where a broad range of requirements could be covered in the bid.
9. It is proposed that the projects listed in Annex 2 are recommended for support. This covers £25,000 reserved for the requirements of individual pupils throughout the year, improvements in 11 schools at an estimated cost of £217,560 plus a £25,000 risk fund. The surplus of £2,440 will be held as a reactive fund to support unforeseen individual pupil requirements.

Extended Schools

Background

10. DfES have awarded new additional capital funding of £1,010,753 over two years to support schools to extend their services, so that all can provide a

minimum of the five core offers by 2010.

11. Bids were invited from all schools other than those who were proposed for designation as an Integrated Children's Centres (ICC), as these had already received funding.

Analysis

12. A total of 17 bids were received by the closing date of 16 November. These have been scored against the bid criteria, but require some further work in clarifying the projects and confirming that the estimated costs are properly based. A further report, detailing the bids and recommending a programme will be brought to the January EMAP once these issues have been resolved.

Redevelopment of Joseph Rowntree School

13. The proposal to choose Joseph Rowntree School for redevelopment under the BSF one-school pathfinder scheme was approved by EMAP in September 2006. Since then, good progress has been made in working with the school and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to begin planning this major project.
14. The DfES have set out conditions for procurement of the new school as:
 - through an existing Local Education Partnership (LEP) or framework partnership, or
 - through the national framework being set up by Partnership for Schools (PfS) in another way put forward by the LA and approved by DfES.
15. Advice on the most appropriate method of procurement has been sought from the Assistant Director of Resources, Head of Property Services. Following a meeting with PfS, his advice is to procure the new school through the national framework. This gives the Authority a choice between six pre-selected construction partnerships, all of whom have the capacity to deliver the school on time and within budget.
16. Using the national framework means that time will be saved in the tendering process, all of the partnerships have sound education experience and the Authority would have the expertise of PfS to assist in the largest project the City has ever undertaken to date.

Options

17. Members have the option whether to approve the recommendations within the report.
18. At a previous meeting of EMAP, Members have already considered the options in regard to Joseph Rowntree School and approved the recommendation to select it as the One School Pathfinder.

Corporate Objectives

19. Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects; improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city.

Implications

20. The following implications arise from this report:

- **Financial**

each of the programmes referred to here is fully funded by DfES as detailed in the following table:

DfES Allocations	Announced	2007/08 £000	2008/09 £000
LA Formula Capital		2,529	2,100*
Schools Access Initiative		271	Not yet announced
Extended Schools Capital		1,011 (£334k 2006/07 and £677k in 2007/08)	N/A

*indicative figure only, yet to be confirmed by DfES

A proportion of the Local Authority Formula Capital allocation for 2007/08 has already been earmarked to support large high priority schemes already in the programme. This leaves an amount of £2m in 2007/08 and £2.1m in 2008/09 available to be allocated.

No commitments have been made against the 2007/08 Schools Access Initiative allocation, therefore the full allocation is available to be allocated.

In order to be able to deal with unforeseen costs and emergencies, each of the allocations contains a significant contingency. As part of the overall monitoring of the Capital Programme, any allocations from this contingency will be reported.

- **Property**

These proposals all relate to school buildings and the projects approved for development will be notified to Property for information and action. As individual projects are developed in detail, instructions are issued to Property for the work required.

- **Human Resources (HR)** - none

- **Equalities** - none
- **Legal** - none
- **Crime and Disorder** - none
- **Information Technology (IT)** - none
- **Other** – none

Risk Management

21. The risks associated with these proposals relate to:
- actual costs exceeding budget
 - funding not being spent within the allocated timescale and therefore being withdrawn
22. Costs associated with the proposals are currently estimates. In order to minimise the risk of overspending on budget:
- all individual projects are costed in detail before being put out to tender and any adjustments brought for approval in the quarterly monitoring reports
 - once designs are agreed and work starts, variations are kept to an absolute minimum
 - risk funds are built in to all budgets
23. Careful monitoring of spending and movement of funding streams between projects ensures that spending is within time constraints.
24. For all capital projects that are approved, a risk management approach is adopted. Large and complex projects will require a risk register that will be considered and monitored by the project board.

Recommendations

25. That the Executive Member:
- i. Approves the proposed LA Formula Capital programme for 2007/08 and 2008/09
 - ii. Approves the proposed Schools Access Initiative capital programme for 2007/08
 - iii. Notes that the detail of the proposed Extended Schools Capital programme for 2007/08 and 2008/09 will be presented to EMAP in January 2007
 - iv. Supports the procurement for the new building for Joseph Rowntree School through the PfS national framework.

Reason: To ensure the delivery of an effective capital programme supporting the priorities of the Council.

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date 26/11/06

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex 1 LA Formula Capital – proposed programme for 2007/08 and 2008/09
Annex 2 SAI – proposed programme for 2007/08