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Dudley (LEA: 332) Bid E

Contact Details

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Project Overview

Project Name	Primary Reorganisation - Halesowen
Number of Schools	1
Other School Code	999332
Other School Name	New School 1
Are you the lead LEA of a joint bid?	No
Is this a linked LEA/VA bid within the LEA?	Yes
Is this project linked to a PFI project?	No
Age range of children	5-11
Statement of the overall aim of project	Merger of 2 primary schools. Removal of surplus capacity, addressing AMP issues, enriching the learning environment fit for the 21st century to contribute directly to raising standards, better community, pre school and SEN Language Unit provision.
Project description	A partnership project between the Diocese of Worcester and Dudley MBC to create a new VA primary school serving Halesowen via the closure of 2 schools and the establishment of a new purpose built VA primary school. Both have significant surplus capacity and AMP condition and suitability issues. The new school would be constructed to a high standard with the aim of incorporating community facilities, pre school accommodation and specialist provision for children with SEN in terms of language needs. New accommodation is central to delivering an enriched primary curriculum in this locality. The new school would be able to admit up to 450 children each year, and have a 30-place nursery and a specialist Language Unit. The proposed date for the opening is September 2005 but may be later recognising the need for time to complete

statutory processes required and a significant building programme. In 2001/02 the Council undertook a major review of all of its primary schools - this project has been developed from outcomes of the review.

Government Priorities

Support for schools causing concern/in challenging circumstances

10 %

Both of the schools to be closed as part of this project currently have attainment outcomes below the national averages in several areas, as highlighted in Ofsted reports. The provision of purpose built school buildings fit for the 21st century will facilitate engagement with learning and curriculum development to address these concerns supporting progress towards the achievement of challenging attainment targets.

Curriculum improvements

20 %

The establishment of a new school will give substance to the primary enrichment strategy. New buildings will facilitate enrichment of the curriculum thereby engaging pupils more effectively as envisaged by Excellence and Enjoyment. The schools to be closed have significant suitability issues which limits their ability to address curriculum delivery and development as needed. This will be overcome by this project. Links with family and adult learning (see below) will facilitate better engagement by pupils and appropriate built resources will allow the development of extension activities particularly beneficial to pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and homes where English is an additional language. The catchment served has features of deprivation - the present schools deal with a range of community languages, have 30%+ free school meals entitlement and around 30% of pupils have special educational needs. One of the schools to be closed has no grassed area for games or sports of its own, though it has access to a field a quarter of a mile away limiting opportunities for the development of skills in these aspects of physical education -this will be overcome by the project.

Standards-focused re-organisation, expansion of successful and popular schools, surplus place removal

40 %

Surplus place removal is a major feature of this reorganisation project. The need for action has been clearly identified in the School Organisation Plan over the last three years and in the Council's full review of Primary Places in 2001/2. The project

forms part of a well defined and published strategy. Halesowen CE VA School has 33.3% surplus and Hasbury VC School 15.4%. These statistics are compounded by the relatively small size of these two schools in an urban setting. Live births in the area have fallen by more than 35% in the period 1990 to 2001 and recovery of school rolls to levels last seen in the 1980s is very unlikely. The closure of these two schools and their replacement by the new school will remove this surplus from the school system, thus assisting Dudley in achieving the DFES target of 10% or less surplus capacity across the Borough. The reorganisation of Church of England primary school provision delivered by this project will also address significant AMP issues in both of the existing schools. It is not envisaged that the development of a new school will adversely affect the position of other primary schools in the locality.

Improved provision for children with SEN in mainstream and special schools and PRUs

10 %

The new school will accommodate a specialist Speech and Language Unit serving an extended catchment area, currently housed in mobile accommodation at one of the schools to be closed as part of this project. The Unit will move from non specialist accommodation, to purpose built rooms specifically designed to better meet the needs of this group of learners within an inclusive mainstream setting. In addition the new school will be resourced to play its part in the widely supported evolving Borough Inclusion Strategy, currently the subject of a full public consultation and be linked to remaining special needs provision. The new buildings will incorporate specialist care, medical and physiotherapy provision to enable high quality support to be provided to children in their own school. These features will facilitate an inclusive and responsive educational setting able to meet the needs of all but the most specialised low incidence needs.

Innovative use of school buildings

20 %

The new school will address the extended schools agenda. The school will incorporate nursery provision and seek to develop wrap around pre and after school care including breakfast clubs. This will build on the existing nursery and pre school provision in the existing schools. The new school will undertake positive engagement with parents and carers including extended family members to

engage adults in their childrens learning and to use this as a stepping stone for further engagement in community projects/activities. The catchment served includes a significant Yemeni community together with a small number of asylum seekers and it is intended that the new school will seek to develop mentoring and buddying schemes to support young people and adults from these communiies in particular. The expected outcome of this work will be targeted at community cohesion and support for ESOL. The new buildings will be flexible and will be designed to include facilities to enable innovative work of this type. The new school will be encouraged to develop strong links with the emerging federation of secondary schools to complement the growing provision of adult and community learning in the area.

Wider Benefits

School workforce reform (improving accommodation)

The new school will be designed to accommodate suitable, flexible staff workspace fit for 21st century education. Adequate staff working, planning and preparation areas will be accommodated within the design of suitable size to accommodate the increasing workforce. The staff working areas will be equipped with sufficient ICT provision to assist with CPD and lesson planning.

Supporting the wider inclusion agenda

Addressing pupil behaviour and attendance issues

AMP Priority

The existing schools to be closed as part of this project both have significant AMP condition, suitability and sufficiency issues. In one case there is no green space on site, only a small hard play area is available for pupil use. The other school site is cut in half by a public right of way, this creates security issues - these issues will be overcome by the development of a new school in new buildings. The joint condition backlog amounts to £160,420. In both cases there are suitability issues in terms of split buildings on one site, mobile accommodation, undersized and unsuitable classrooms. By closing two existing schools and creating a new primary school a number of the targets set out in Dudley's Statement of Priorities for 2002-06 would be met for reducing the condition backlog and tackling Category

A,B & C suitability items. The targets of reducing surplus accommodation as set out in the SOP would also be achieved.

Does the project require statutory proposals? Yes
Date proposals were published or expected to be published 01-04-2004
Date proposals were decided

Accommodation Details

School Name **New School 1**
Net Capacity Existing: 540
 On Completion: 450
Number on Roll Existing: 448
 On Completion: 450
Teaching Area Existing: 1785
 On Completion: 1536
Gross Area Existing: 2795
 On Completion: 2475
Gross Area of new accommodation 2475 m²
Area Demolished or taken out of use 2795 m²
Area of adaptations 0 m²

Project Costs and Savings

Demolition £ 85900
New Build £ 2722500
Refurbishment or improvement £ 0
Site works £ 639500
Fixtures and fittings £ 150000
Fees £ 544185
ICT Equipment £ 126000
Other £ 30000
Explanation of Other Costs Other costs include for works to the existing playing field
VAT £ 752165
Total Gross Capital cost £ 5050250
Anticipated Capital Receipts £ 250000
Source of Anticipated Capital Receipts Sale of Diocesan interest in the site of the current Halesowen CE VA Primary School.
Contribution from DfES formulaic capital funding £ 0
Contribution from other sources £ 255025
List of other sources with amounts LCVAP funding - £255,025
VA Governors statutory 10% Contribution £ 505025
Net Capital Costs £ 4040200
Gross Cost Phasing

2004 -	2005 -	2006 -

2005	2006	2007
1010050	2424120	1616080

2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
808040	1939296	1292864

Net Cost Phasing**Phasing Justification**

Net Capital costs as % of Gross Cost	80.00 %
Annual recurrent savings (staff and premises related)	2240
Capital savings (over 5 years)	160420
Rate of return	0.85
Explanation of how savings are calculated	Annual recurrent savings: old gross floor area - new gross floor area = 320m ² .320x£7/year = £2,240.00 saving per year on utility bills Capital Savings: Condition Backlog that would not have to be addressed at both schools

VA Additional Information

Has there been a previous bid for the same or similar project in the last 2 years?	No
Name of Diocese	Diocese of Worcester
Denomination	Church of England
Project Manager: name, address and contact details	Buildings & Estates Team, Directorate of Education Westox House, Trinity Road, Dudley, DY1 1JQ

VA School Site

Who owns the existing site?	Diocese of Worcester local parish church
Will a new/additional site be required?	Yes
If yes, who will provide the site?	Dudley MBC
If Governors, estimated cost	£ 0
The Governors' interest in new/additional site will be	Leasehold
If leasehold, who will own the freehold interest?	Dudley MBC
Please state the proposed length of the lease	100 years
Will existing buildings be purchased?	No
If Yes, estimate of Governors' purchase costs	£ 0

VA Proceeds of Sale

Will the project release any school premises?	Yes
If yes, estimated value of released	£ 4000000

premises

Confirmed ownership of released premises and plans for disposal

Premises and land owned by Diocese of Worcester and Halesowen parish. Disposal to be considered with income provided to meet costs within this project.

Are you providing supporting documentation?

Yes

List of the supporting documentation

Site Plan.Copy of Public Consultation.Letter of Support from LEA.Letter of Support from Diocese.Copy of Governing Body Annual Report, supporting the project.