

**Schools Forum 9 December 2008**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Targeted Capital Funding: Kitchens and Dining Rooms**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the DCSF targeted capital funding available to local authorities for school kitchens and dining room improvements.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No.

**Action for Schools Forum**

3. To note the contents of the report and to endorse the expression of interest required by the DCSF on behalf of Dudley schools.

**Attachments to Report**

4. None.

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**Background**

2. The DCSF has recently announced that targeted capital funding grant of £100m will be available in 2009/10 and 2010/11, on a 50% matched funding basis, for those authorities who submit plans to increase school lunch take-up by building or refurbishing school kitchens or improving dining areas and facilities.
3. It will be for authorities and their schools to decide the details of the plans they submit, however, any proposals should be presented against one or more of the following goals:
  - a. Improving the quality of the food
  - b. Increasing the seating capacity of dining areas
  - c. Improving the dining environment
  - d. Decreasing queuing time
4. These four goals will allow authorities the flexibility to bid for a variety of approaches – eg new dining room furniture, cashless systems or new or refurbished kitchens but will ensure that the authority plans focus on the factors that contribute to an increase in school lunch take-up.
5. It is a condition of the grant that the authority should consult and agree any plans with its Schools Forum.
6. The DCSF has asked for authorities to submit their Expressions of Interest by Christmas 2008, followed by formal bids in February 2009.
7. In Dudley, the Building and Estates team are collating bids from schools. The outcomes will be presented to Schools Forum at the 24 February 2009 meeting before being submitted to the DCSF.

## **Finance**

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
9. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
10. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG)

## **Law**

11. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

## **Equality Impact**

12. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

## **Recommendation**

13. Schools Forum to:
  - o Note the DCSF targeted capital grant funding to local authorities in respect of kitchens and dining room improvements;
  - o Endorse the Expression of Interest being submitted to the DCSF in December 2008 on behalf of Dudley schools;
  - o To receive a further report in February 2009 in respect of the formal bidding process.



**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

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