

Schools Forum 24 February 2009

Report of the Interim 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 Dudley's submission to the DCSF for targeted capital funding in respect of school kitchens and dining room improvements.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 23 February 2009.

Action for Schools Forum

3. It is a condition of the grant that the authority should consult and agree any plans with its Schools Forum.
4. To approve the submission for grant funding.

Attachments to Report

5. Summary spreadsheet of planned TCF bid to DCSF is attached at Appendix A.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
10 February 2009

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Targeted Capital Funding: Kitchens and Dining Rooms

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of Dudley's submission to the DCSF for targeted capital funding in respect of school kitchens and dining room improvements.

Background

2. A report was presented to Schools Forum in December 2008 outlining the authority's intention to submit an expression of interest in respect of the DCSF targeted capital funding grant for 2009/10 and 2010/11.
3. The DCSF grant will be allocated 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.
4. Submissions by local authorities 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
5. It is a condition of the grant that the authority should consult and agree any plans with its Schools Forum.
6. The expression of interest was submitted on 18 December 2008 and confirmation of receipt was received from the DCSF. Since that date Buildings and Estates have been liaising with schools to confirm that they are able to provide match funding for their requirements and that they still wish to be included in the bid.
7. On 26 January 2009 the DCSF wrote to all authorities to advise that the Targeted Capital Funding had been significantly oversubscribed and has asked local authorities to review their bids with a view to making reductions. Dudley is now bidding for approximately £1.2 million of TCF funding.
8. The original expression of interest reflected a total cost of £2.4m. The reduction of £1.2m on the original expression of interest wholly reflects schools updated plans which are still in the process of being finalised prior to submission.
9. The formal bid is due for submission by the end of February 2009 and a summary spreadsheet is attached at Appendix A for Forum to approve.
10. If the bid is accepted all schools who have requested dining room equipment can arrange for the purchase and delivery of items in liaison with Catering and Client Services. Larger

projects will be delivered in a phased programme of works, co-ordinated through Buildings and Estates. Several secondary schools have already commissioned consultants to help deliver their requirements should their request be successful.

11. All schools included in the bid have now confirmed that they are able to provide match funding for their project.

Finance

12. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
13. 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.
14. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

15. 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

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

Recommendation

17. Schools Forum to note the information contained in the report and to approve the submission of the formal bid to the DCSF in respect of targeted capital funding for school kitchens and dining room improvements.



Jane Porter

Interim Director of Children's Services

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