

## **Working Group on School Buildings**

### **Notes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2005 at 6.00.pm.**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor Bird (Lead Member)  
Councillor Cassidy  
David McNulty  
Elaine Simpson  
Susan Lupton  
Mr. A. Butterworth  
Adrian Williams – Asset Manager, Education  
Walsall

#### **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received at this meeting.

#### **RECEIPT OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest identified at this meeting.

#### **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2005 be agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

#### **CAPITAL ALLOCATION**

Councillor Bird thanked Education Walsall for the document submitted headed Capital Allocations 2005/6 to 2007/8. The working group noted the categories of capital allocations for 2005/6 to 2008 and Elaine Simpson confirmed that cabinet had approved the submission of a bid for target capital fund, the core of which would relate to special schools. She said cabinet had delegated Education Walsall to write the bid most likely to succeed and with that in mind Education Walsall was developing a bid with a strong focus on Mary Elliot and possibly Daw End schools.

The working group felt that the proposed bids appeared to be the right way forward. Councillor Bird suggested that it might be advantageous to undertake a site visit to the Mary Elliott School prior to the bid submission. Elaine Simpson agreed to make arrangements for the visit on a date suitable to the members at approximately 10.00 a.m.

Elaine also advised the working group that an additional bid was also being prepared for the commencement of works at the Joseph Leckie site.

#### **AGREED**

That Education Walsall will arrange a site visit to Mary Elliott School on a date suitable to members.

### EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/6

The work group received the report to cabinet for 11 May 2005 and welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise the report prior to its submission to cabinet. The contents were received and noted.

### PRIORITY 1 CONDITION BACKLOG

The working group welcomed the documents prepared by Education Walsall setting out the priority 1 condition backlog separated into the non aided primary schools priority condition backlog and the list setting out the non aided primary schools which have no current priority 1 conditions.

Susan Lupton advised members that the schools which have been earmarked for closure have been removed from the list of priority 1 condition backlog and that the list would be surveyed again to ensure that the condition status is updated. She confirmed that the list had been compiled sometime ago and it would need to be resurveyed to ascertain whether some of the priority 1 repairs could be undertaken by the school themselves by virtue of the minor costs involved.

Susan went on to say that the next step for Education Walsall would be to liaise with the council's establishment team who have been requested to acquire additional capacity to enable this re-categorisation to commence quickly.

United Utilities who would be assuming responsibility for the establishment team had been communicated with and they are aware of the urgency and the costs involved.

The work group was anxious to ascertain when the works would commence on the sites and expected that some works would commence during the coming school summer holidays.

Susan Lupton confirmed that cabinet would be considering the report submitted at this meeting tomorrow i.e. 11 May and would be considering the list of schemes in more detail. She confirmed that more schemes would be added to this list by cabinet at the June meeting.

The work group agreed that the final priority 1 list of schemes to be commenced this summer should include only those schemes genuinely in need of completion and could also include some schools which are not currently on the list presented to this meeting as priority 1 condition backlogs.

The work group was also of the view that the £4.9 million available for spending this year should be spent as widely as possible covering as many schemes as possible of varying sizes.

The working group concluded that a de minimis of below £10,000 mark could be adopted for repairs in schools for which schools would be expected to take full

responsibility for. This would allow some schools to commence their work immediately.

Councillor Bird was of the view that the schedule of rates should be checked carefully to ensure that any work tendered to a contractor is undertaken by that contractor and not sub-contracted to others not known to the council.

In conclusion the working group AGREED: -

That Education Walsall prepare a revised list of priority 1 schemes to be commenced during this summer holiday period and that a further report be provided by Education Walsall following cabinets decision on the schemes to be commenced as part of the priority 1 list. The update report will be considered at the next meeting of the work group.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.