

## **Cabinet - 13 April 2005**

### **Targeted capital fund 2006-2008**

<b>Portfolio</b>	Councillor Eddie Hughes, Children's Services
<b>Service Area</b>	Education Walsall
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan</b>	Yes

#### **Summary of report**

The report provides details of the proposed bids for Targeted Capital for the period 2006-2008.

#### **Recommendations**

That Cabinet approve the submission of bids for Targeted Capital to the DfES and that these be submitted in line with the criteria specified to maximise the funding for Walsall.

#### **Resource and legal considerations**

##### **Bids**

The scope of the Targeted Capital Fund has been broadened and bids will now only be invited every two years.

Authorities can bid for either

- 2 projects for funding for up to £6 million each plus match funding (ie up to £7.5 million each)
- or
- 1 project for up to £12 million plus match funding (ie up to £15 million).

Where a project costs more than these limits, the balance must be met in full locally. Within the project maximum, the matched funding element of 20% may be limited to 25% of formulaic allocations over the 2006-08 period for each project or 50% if one project of up to £12 million is submitted. The Council receives formulaic allocations for modernisation which will amount to approximately £3.8 million in 2006/07. This is used to address the backlog of high priority condition and suitability issues at schools, particularly primary, and to deal with urgent issues. Cabinet has recently agreed funding to update the condition and suitability surveys and the outcome of this will indicate more clearly the scale of the challenges faced in Walsall schools.

Two VA bids may be submitted.

Each proposal should be self-standing but may include work at more than one school where there are strong interdependencies between the elements.

Statutory proposals associated with bids must be published by 31 May 2006.

### **TCF Categories**

- A Priority building project  
Primary, secondary, special needs or reorganisation issues.
- B Innovative schemes  
High performing specialist schools with a second specialism.
- C Basic Need 'safety valve'
- D Rebuilding secondary schools  
One secondary school allocated funding for rebuild by 2011. Only for authorities in BSF from Wave 10. No bids.
- E Local Authority Boarding Schools
- F Music and Dance Schools
- G Non-Maintained Special Schools
- H Failing Schools / Fresh Start

### **Criteria**

Projects are expected to be for schools where accommodation needs feature as a high priority in local AMPs.

The main supporting criteria are:

- Standards/curriculum improvements  
Raising of standards at Key Stages 1, 2, 3 or 4 as appropriate. Focus on:
  - a primary enrichment
  - b science, design and technology
  - c 14 – 19 agenda.
- Standards focused reorganisations
- Improved provision for children with SEN in mainstream and special schools and PRUs. Projects should be part of a wider strategy. Special school bids - increased opportunities for links with mainstream schools or increased capacity to meet the needs of pupils with severe and complex needs more locally.
- Extended schools/community use agenda.

In addition, all projects should also address:

- the school workforce reform agenda.
- the wider inclusion agenda.

All projects must also demonstrate cost effectiveness.

All bids received by the DfES will be scored against the above criteria.

### **SEN Projects**

Priority will be given to those which are part of an overall SEN strategy to improve outcomes for pupils with SEN, whether in mainstream schools or special schools.

### **Proposed bids for Walsall**

Securing funding for investment in Walsall schools through the Targeted Capital Fund will be dependent upon submitting proposals which most closely match the criteria and which would therefore score highly in what will be a very competitive bidding round. Successful bids for investment from 2006/07 are expected to be announced in the summer; investment from 2007/08 may not be announced for a further year. There will not be another opportunity to bid for targeted capital for two years.

Walsall meets the criteria for Category A bids only. The submission of two bids for grant of up to £6 million each would maximise the likelihood of securing investment in Walsall schools.

The following have been identified as high priorities for investment and could form the basis of a bid.

### **Special Schools**

A number of investment needs have been identified as necessary in order to implement the outcomes of the review of specialist SEN provision in Walsall.

### **Mary Elliot**

The need for a replacement school for Mary Elliot was first recognised some years ago. The building, which was formerly a training centre, is too small for the number of pupils on roll and the accommodation is unsuitable for curriculum delivery for some of the most vulnerable pupils in the borough. The corridors are narrow and the many pupils who are wheelchair users experience great difficulty in moving about the school.

The recent review of specialist SEN provision recommended that Old Hall, Oakwood and Mary Elliot be reorganised to cater for primary pupils only at Old Hall and Oakwood and secondary age pupils only at Mary Elliot. This cannot happen until a replacement school is built for Mary Elliot. Some additional mobile classrooms are being provided at the school to cater for the additional pupils transferring this September, however, such accommodation is not recommended for mainstream schools and for pupils with profound and multiple physical difficulties, this is even more unsuitable.

In December 2004, Cabinet made some funding available to undertake initial development of a scheme to replace Mary Elliot as a secondary and post-16 provision with a view to identifying the resources necessary to implement the proposal.

As this proposal is a clearly identified part of an overall SEN strategy to improve outcomes for pupils with SEN and would also contribute significantly to the inclusion agenda, it is considered that a bid would attract a high score in the assessment process.

### **Daw End**

The need to increase the number of places at Daw End, a special school for children with emotional and behavioural needs, and to rebuild the school onto one site was also identified some time ago and is a formal outcome of the review of specialist SEN provision in the borough.

Discussions are taking place with Health Services and Social Services to determine whether other multi-agency provision such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Social Services respite care facilities could also be included as part of the overall plan. This could lead to a single-sited 'one stop shop' centre of resources and expertise for good mental health and well-being, as well as a support centre of children and young people with social and behavioural difficulties.

In December 2004, Cabinet made some funding available to undertake initial development of a scheme to replace Daw End special school with a view to identifying the resources necessary to implement the proposal.

As this proposal is a clearly identified part of an overall SEN strategy to improve outcomes for pupils with SEN and would also contribute significantly to the inclusion agenda, it is considered that a bid would attract a high score in the assessment process.

### **Secondary Schools**

Numerous secondary schools are in need of very significant investment in their buildings in order to address condition and suitability issues and a number of these schools have been identified as requiring a replacement school building. These will be addressed through the Building Schools for the Future programme and the DfES has indicated, for planning purposes, that Walsall will join the full programme by 2011. This means that Walsall will not be included in waves 4, 5 or 6 despite the condition of the school buildings. It is possible that funding for an academy may be available before 2011.

The severity and scale of the issues were recognised some years ago by Walsall Council and funding for replacement buildings was sought through 3 separate PFI bids for Joseph Leckie and Pool Hayes schools. Unfortunately these were not successful and the daily challenges faced by the schools have worsened over the intervening period and will continue to do so until there is investment through Building Schools for the Future. In view of this, consideration should be given to bids for part replacement of those secondaries most in need.

Bids for Joseph Leckie and Pool Hayes would need to be based on standards/curriculum improvements and a view will need to be taken as to the strength of these cases compared to that of the special school proposals.

### **Joseph Leckie**

The school consists of seven buildings erected between 1939 and 1999 and more recent temporary accommodation (mobile classrooms and duplex units). The overall condition of the buildings is very poor: roofs are in need of replacement, a rewire and relight is needed, window frames and external doors require replacement in addition to structural, heating and asbestos issues which need to be addressed.

There are also significant suitability issues which impact adversely on the delivery of the national curriculum at the school. These include noise, inadequate ventilation, insufficient specialist teaching spaces, undersized classrooms and laboratories, inadequate dining, study and social areas, inadequate staff and administration accommodation. The school is not accessible by those with physical disabilities.

The Building Schools for the Future proposal for the school is a rebuild on adjacent land. In view of this, a bid could be submitted for the first phase of this rebuild up to a maximum grant allocation of £6 million. This would enable the duplex units to be removed from the site and the associated hire costs would be a saving. Whilst this would make a significant improvement to the school accommodation, the school would have to continue to operate across a number of buildings. A bid for Joseph Leckie would have to be focused on standards/curriculum improvements in order to address the DfES's assessment criteria. The completion of the rebuild could be funded through Building Schools for the Future.

### **Pool Hayes**

The school consists of five buildings dating from the 1960s. There are significant condition and suitability issues. The main teaching and two other blocks are predominantly wooden framed timber clad buildings with felt flat roofs and the drama block was originally a primary school. Major investment is needed to address roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, windows and brickwork issues; however, this would not impact significantly on the suitability issues at the school.

The accommodation available to the school places significant restrictions on the curriculum which can be offered to pupils. Many lessons are taught in non-specialist areas and there are insufficient general classrooms. Facilities for science, PE technology and ICT are inadequate. The school is not accessible by those with physical disabilities.

The Building Schools for the Future proposal for the school is a rebuild. In view of this, a bid could be submitted for the first phase of this rebuild up to a maximum grant allocation of £6 million. Whilst this would make a significant improvement to the school accommodation, the school would have to continue to operate across a number of buildings. A bid for Pool Hayes would have to be focused on standards/curriculum improvements in order to address the DfES's assessment criteria. The completion of the rebuild could be funded through Building Schools for the Future.

### **Funding Arrangements**

The maximum grant that can be secured for a project through Targeted Capital is 80% of the cost up to the project maximum (ie £7.5 million or £15 million, with DfES funding of up to £6 million or £12 million respectively). The remaining 20% or more of funding can come from any source.

Within the project maximum, the 20% contribution may be limited to 25% of an authority's formulaic funding from the DfES over the 2006-08 period for each project submitted, or 50% if one project of up to £12 million is submitted.

The Council's formulaic allocation for modernisation for 2006/7 is c£3.8m. However, there is a significant backlog in terms of building repairs and maintenance issues in schools. Cabinet approved £5m of funding over 2 years, via use of the Prudential Code, to address this from 2005/6.

Alternative funding streams to provide the necessary match funding contribution include the use of unsupported borrowing through the Prudential Code and/or use of capital receipts. The annual capital programme is constructed using an objective scoring methodology. The higher the score for a scheme, the more valuable it is considered and therefore more likely to obtain funding. Such a scheme would attract a high priority score within future years' draft capital programmes, due to its contribution to meeting the Council vision and priority of "making our schools great" and the level of match funding available.

### **Citizen impact**

All of the proposals put forward for consideration would result in the provision of significantly improved learning environments for pupils, some of whom are very vulnerable. Pupils at all of the schools are currently being taught in accommodation that is in poor condition and is unsuitable for delivering education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Community safety**

There are no direct community implications as a result of this report.

### **Environmental impact**

Schemes to provide new school buildings would use sustainable resources wherever possible and the designs would incorporate developments to reduce the impact on the environment.

### **Performance and risk management issues**

Consideration needs to be given to the availability of other funding streams which will be available for some of these proposals.

Walsall has been advised that it will be in Wave C of Building Schools for the Future and that funding is likely to be available by 2011 for schools with secondary age pupils. There is some uncertainty about whether funding would be available for the primary element of the Daw End proposal given the financial pressures associated with the programme.

Many authorities have found that their proposals for the Building Schools for the Future programme have been revised in the light of a national requirement for an increase in the number of refurbishment projects and a reduction in the number of new builds.

### **Equality implications**

The proposed bids provide an opportunity to create school accommodation with a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment for local communities and would provide improved accommodation for some of the most vulnerable pupils in the Borough.

## Consultation

There has been consultation with stakeholders and there would be extensive further consultation when the outcome of bids is known. Where appropriate, this would be in line with statutory requirements for consultation on school organisation changes in special schools.

## Vision 2008

The proposed bids would contribute to the delivery of Walsall's vision for 2008 – Section 4 Make Our Schools Great – by securing investment to improve the learning environment for Walsall pupils.

## Background papers

DfES letter, March 2005: Targeted Capital Fund Arrangements for 2006-07 and 2007-08

## Contact officer

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Signed:



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Date: 4 April 2005

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Managing Director, Education Walsall

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Portfolio Holder: Councillor Eddie Hughes

Date: 4 April 2005