

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting : Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee

Date : Monday 9 June 2003

Report of : Director Children, Families & Schools

Subject : Capital investment in schools

Wards affected : All

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To report on a consultative paper issued by the Department for Education & Skills and on indicative allocations for capital funding in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Sub-Committee are recommended to note the contents of this report and to ask the Director for Children, Families & Schools to discuss this funding initiative with Heads of secondary schools and with colleagues in other Departments – with a view to formulating investment proposals for submission to the DFES at an appropriate time.

3. Information

3.1 The DFES have invited comments on a consultative paper, entitled “Building schools for the future”, which includes the proposals which are summarised below.

3.2 Capital investment in schools in England rose from £700 million in 1996/97 to £3 billion in 2002/03. As part of the recent spending review, the Chancellor announced a further increase in investment to £5.1 billion in 2005/06. It is proposed to use this further increase (and, subject to future decisions about public spending, an equivalent amount of funding in future years) “to renew the secondary school estate to 21st century standards” within 10 to 15 years. At the same time, it is proposed to continue investment in primary schools, renewing schools in need of replacement, and in special schools & units.

- 3.3 It is anticipated that, of £2.2 billion allocated to strategic investment in secondary education in 1995/96, at least £1.2 billion will be made available as support for investment via the Private Finance Initiative. Investment in primary schools will continue to be delivered via formulaic allocations to LEAs and schools.
- 3.4 The strategic investment in secondary education will be concentrated in specific geographical areas, starting with areas with the poorest standards and the greatest needs. The allocation of funding will be based on four main criteria :
- the contribution which particular projects will make to raising educational standards, re-organising the provision & pattern of secondary education where necessary;
 - the extent of local deprivation and the level of educational need which this implies;
 - the state of school buildings and the urgency of need for repair, renewal or replacement;
 - evidence that consultation & planning processes are in hand and that schools & partners in the area in question are fully signed up to any strategic changes which are needed.

Proposals for investment should also demonstrate how strategic groupings of schools will meet the needs of children with special educational needs & disabilities and how mainstream schools will increase access for children with special needs & disabilities. Proposals may include special schools with provision for children of secondary age.

- 3.5 The consultative paper also includes proposals for :
- the establishment of a national procurement body – to manage delivery of the programme of strategic investment and ensure the efficient use of PFI and other procurement methods;
 - the development of “exemplar” designs – as a starting point to ensure consistently high standards of design for new schools

- 3.6 The deadline for sending comments on this paper to the DFES was 30th May and, subject to the outcome of the consultative process, the timetable for further action is as follows :

Summer, 2003 Bids to be invited for allocations of strategic funding for 2005/06

September, 2003 National procurement body to be established

November, 2003 "Exemplar" designs to be published

- 3.7 In the meantime, the DFES have announced indicative figures for the allocation of formulaic funding in 2004/05 and 2005/06.
- 3.8 In 2003/04, investment in community & voluntary schools in Brighton & Hove, under the headings "NDS condition" and "NDS modernisation" amounts to about £3.13 million. In 2004/05 and 2005/06, investment will be under a single heading "NDS modernisation" and the equivalent figures will be £2.375 million and £1.365 million.
- 3.9 At the national level, the DFES have held in reserve sums of £300 million for investment in primary schools in 2004/05 and 2005/06 and propose to announce the allocation of this further funding in December, 2003.
- 3.10 In 2003/04, investment in community & voluntary schools in this area, under the heading "NDS devolved capital", amounts to about £2.48 million. That is based on allocations to community schools of a lump sum of £11,300 per school + £42.40 per pupil of primary age and £63.60 per pupil of secondary age or £127.20 per statemented pupil with special needs. (Figures for voluntary schools differ slightly – as a result of an allowance for VAT and for governors' responsibility for 10% of capital expenditure at VA schools.) The equivalent figures for "NDS devolved capital" in 2004/05 will be a lump sum of £12,750 + £48 per primary pupil and £72 per secondary pupil or £144 per statemented pupil. The equivalent figures for 2004/05 will be a lump sum of £13,150 + £49.40 and £74.10 or £148.20.



COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX

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Financial implications

The method of procurement which is eventually chosen for further investment in secondary schools in Brighton & Hove will have significant financial implications for the Council and for the schools concerned.

Legal implications

None – at this stage.

Corporate/Citywide implications

The proposals provide a major investment in the schools.

Risk assessment

in the course of proposals over this

Sustainability implications

Any such implications will be addressed in the course of working up detailed proposals.

Financial implications

Any such implications will be addressed in the course of working up detailed proposals.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

Any such implications will be addressed in the course of working up detailed proposals.

Background papers

1. Consultative paper issued by DFES on 26th February, 2003, and letter from DFES dated 31st March, 2003.
2. No other unpublished papers have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report

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