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**FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS**  
**TARGETED CAPITAL FUND PROJECT UPDATE**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Margaret Asquith, Director of Children's Services**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To update Members on the development of the capital project to build a new school hall at the Federation of Abbey Schools.
2. To request release of £600,000 funding to support the scheme.

**Information and Analysis**

3. Further to the previous report to cabinet the following progress has been achieved.
4. Feasibility and outline design work has been undertaken by Officers.
5. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 the project was presented to students of both schools, staff and governors. In the evening an open meeting was held for parents and residents.
6. Officers presented a cost plan, which indicates that the project can meet acceptance criteria within the agreed timescale for a build cost of £487,000. When fees and all additional items are accounted for the project can be delivered within the agreed budget of £600,000.
7. The funding for this project will be made up of Targeted Capital Funding from DfES and funds from Abbey federation. Abbey federation have now confirmed two funding options
8. Funding Option 1: Based against a bid to the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Targeted Capital Funding (80%)	£480,000
Devolved Capital from 2007/08 budget	£ 60,000
Money raised by Abbey Parents and Friends Association	£ 20,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	£ 40,000
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</b>	<b>£600,000</b>

9. Governors have confirmed that if the Garfield Weston Foundation bid is unsuccessful the school will fund the £40,000 contribution from a range of revenue savings and the commitment of future devolved formula capital. The head teachers of both schools have also confirmed that any shortfall will be made up from the schools' 2008/09 devolved formula capital allocation

10. The schools are also pursuing other potential sources of funding including Local Agenda 21, Eco Schools Grant Scheme, DTI Low Carbon Building & Awards for All.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

11. Meetings with students, staff, governors, parents and residents were held on 13th November 2006. Plans were presented to the groups and discussion ranged over a number of subjects. The school council, staff meeting and governors meeting all offered their support for the project. Further consultation will be undertaken at key milestones in the development of the scheme, e.g. planning, commencement of construction etc.

### **Legal Implications**

12. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

13. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

14. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

### **Decision Deadline**

15. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

### **Key Decisions**

16. This is a key decision in relation to the amount of funding this report is requesting Members to agree to be released to move the project forward.

### **Recommendations**

17. It is recommended that Members:-
  - (a) Note the progress of the project; and
  - (b) Agree to release the £600,000 of funding made up of £480,000 DfES Targeted Capital Funding and £120,000 to be raised by the school.

### **Reasons**

18. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) The school and other stake holders have shown their support for the project and signed off the outline design.

- (b) Abbey Federation has provided a financial breakdown showing how it plans to raise the funding to support the project.

**Margaret Asquith,  
Director of Children's Services**

## **Background Papers**

Cabinet Paper 10th October 2006

Mik O'Connell : Extension 2978