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**EXTENDED SCHOOLS – BIG LOTTERY FUND**

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

**Responsible Director – Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with background information about the Big Lottery Funding available to Darlington Borough Council and seek endorsement of the proposal to nominate Longfield School and Sports College to access it.

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Government has for some time signified its desire to establish a Lottery fund dedicated solely to projects for young people. The Big Lottery Fund's Young People's Fund (YPF) was therefore announced in July 2003 by the Secretary of State as part of the launch of the decision document from the 'Lottery Review'. The YPF was highlighted again in September 2003 with the publication of the green paper 'Every Child Matters', which sets out a wide-ranging overhaul of services for children and young people at local, regional and national levels. The programmes under the YPF will concentrate on the outcomes from the Green Paper and on providing facilities and activities for young people out of school hours and in the holidays.
3. There is £200 million available through the YPF across the UK over the next three years. In England, the sum is £157.5 million. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has said that the YPF should fund a number of national programmes which complement Government policy and which support the framework for the YPF. One of these programmes is Extended Schools.
4. A total of £90,000 has been made available to support a school or cluster of schools in Darlington over the next three years. 10% will be released upfront for consultation or management/administration over the course of the programme. There is also a possibility of using up to 20% of the £90,000 for minor capital works.
5. The target group for the funding is young people aged 0 – 25 who do not necessarily have to be pupils at the school/s. The funding must be used for out of school activities (before or after school, during lunchtime, weekends or school holidays).
6. The objectives of the funding are to complement the existing extended school strategy and partnership working. Young people must also be involved in designing and delivering the activities and facilities which are funded.
7. An initial expression of interest, indicating that the Authority wishes to take up the funding and proposing a school or group of schools was required by 15 October 2004. An

expression of interest has been submitted proposing Longfield School and Sports College, together with the primary schools within its cluster (Rise Carr, Corporation Road, North Road, Harrowgate Hill Juniors and Infants). Subject to the endorsement of Members, a full application must be in by January 2005 or April 2005. Decisions to fund the proposals will be made by the Big Lottery Fund two months after each deadline.

8. The reasons for proposing Longfield School are:

- a) Longfield School is a designated Sports College. Its development as an extended school will complement this work.
- b) The expertise implicit in the school's Sports College status will particularly support achievement of the outcomes from the Green Paper of *being healthy, being able to achieve things and enjoy life* and *being able to make a positive contribution*.
- c) The school already has positive links with the primary schools in its cluster and a drive and determination to extend the partnership to other agencies/organisations.
- d) The school, and most of its feeder primaries, have a school council. This will facilitate the involvement of young people in designing and delivering the activities/facilities.
- e) The school serves a large community in one of the Borough's most deprived areas.

9. In addition to the above, at the beginning of 2004, when Darlington's schools were asked to express an interest in becoming a Full Service School. Two expressions of interest were received. One from a consortium consisting of a secondary and primary school (Hummersknott School & Language College and Skerne Park Primary School), which went on to successfully bid for the available DfES funding and one from Longfield School. When a second opportunity was offered to the Authority to propose a school for extended school funding, it was considered appropriate to approach Longfield to see if they were still interested.

10. The Local Authority is developing a cluster model of extended schooling. This is currently being pioneered by Darlington's Full Service School. Therefore, the commitment from the Longfield cluster to work in the same way fits in with Darlington Borough Council's emerging extended schools strategy.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

11. With support from officers of the Education Department, the Head teacher of Longfield School and Sports College has met with all the feeder schools within its area. At this meeting everyone gave their commitment to working together to extend the out of school hours activities available in the cluster area for 0-25 year olds.

### **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

### **Key Decision**

15. This is a key decision as it covers more than two wards of the Council's area.

### **Recommendation**

16. It is recommended that Members endorse the proposal to make a full application to the Big Lottery Fund, nominating Longfield School and Sports College and its cluster.

### **Reasons**

17. To permit an application for funding and secure an additional resource of £90,000 for Longfield School and Sports College and its 'feeder schools'.

**Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

### **Background Papers**

The Green Paper – *Every Child Matters*

Young People's Fund – Extended Schools Programme – Programme Overview

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