
TARGETED CAPITAL FUND 2005 – HUMMERSKNOTT LANGUAGE COLLEGE

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

Responsible Director(s) - Margaret Asquith, Director of Children's Services

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about the successful outcome of two bids made to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) for financial support to:
 - (a) remodel and, in some areas replace, the existing Hummersknott Language College, and
 - (b) redevelop the buildings and create modern learning facilities at Carmel RC Technology College.

Information and Analysis

2. Darlington Borough Council has invested just under £76.5 million in our schools since 2001, with the result that 3,136 children will be learning in new state of the art facilities by 2007. The Council has had considerable success in addressing the condition and suitability needs in the primary sector, and has turned its attention to the investment needs in the secondary sector.
3. Work began last year with Schools, Governors and Members to identify the long- term strategic plan for secondary education in Darlington. This early consultation exercise began to shape the potential size and locations of schools, with the Borough divided into quadrants with appropriate numbers of schools in each area. The Authority had hoped that this strategic review could continue under the DfES Building Schools For The Future (BSF) programme supported by extensive funding to replace, reconfigure and re-model existing schools. It would also ensure the most severe condition needs of the secondary school estate would be met.
4. On 29th November 2004, the DfES announced Wave 2 and 3 Authorities to be included within the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. Unfortunately Darlington Borough Council did not feature in either wave. The only indication from DfES in their letter to Darlington Borough Council about when we may expect to access funding was the 'ambition that you will rebuild at least one secondary school by 2011 and join the full programme by 2016'. However, it was made clear in the announcement letter that this is an aspiration and by no means certain.

5. In response to this announcement the Council looked at the options available to bring investment into secondary schools within Darlington, opening dialogue with DfES. The Council sought to receive funding for the 'single school by 2011' referred to in paragraph 4, but allocations were based upon the condition of an Authority's five worst schools. As a small Authority, which has a good record of investing in the fabric of its secondary schools the Council was unlikely to receive any such funding before the end of the allocation process (e.g. 2011).
6. The Council pursued other funding opportunities and on 24th February 2005 received notification of a potential bidding opportunity for TCF funding. The guidance received outlined potential capital support for priority building projects Local Authorities and Voluntary Aided schools wished to undertake during the period 2006-07 and 2007-08. This category of TCF is bid based for building projects that contribute to achieving educational improvement, but which are too significant to be funded from formulaic allocations.
7. The TCF covered two years and the local Authority would not have another opportunity to access significant capital to undertake large-scale building projects until 2009-10.
8. Local Authorities were able to propose up to two projects, each able to attract funding of £6 million, plus matched funding of an additional 20% (i.e. up to £7.5 million) each. Alternatively, the Authority could propose one project of £12 million plus matched funding (i.e. up to £15 million). In addition, Voluntary Aided schools were invited to submit up to two bids, which could be above the limits set for LA projects, but which included a minimum 10% statutory contribution from the Governors'.
9. The Cabinet agreed in April 2005 to support the proposal to bid for significant capital investment at Hummersknott Language College. To achieve the step change desired, it was agreed that a bid of £15 million be submitted, £12 Million funded by DfES with the Authority providing matched funding of £3 million. The Authority also supported a bid from Carmel RC Technology College for £10 million to redevelop the buildings and create modern learning facilities.

Outcome

10. On Wednesday 12th October 2005, the DfES wrote to the Director of Children's Services announcing the results of the 2006-2009 Targeted Capital Fund (TCF). Nationally the total allocation spread across 90 successful local authorities amounts to £1.1 billion, and is part of a schools' capital allocation of some £5.5 billion this year, rising to £6.3 billion by 2007-08.
11. Hummersknott School and Language College were successful with the bid and were awarded £11,632,800 to be matched with Council funding of £2,736,152 (realised from the potential sale of surplus school land) and DfES formulaic capital funding of £172,048. The total investment in the school will reach £14.541m. Funding allocations will be phased over the three-year period 2006-07 to 2008-09 in the proportions 25%, 50% and 25%.
12. Carmel RC Technology College were also successful with their bid and were awarded £9,115,200 to be matched with Governor contributions of £1,012,800, equating to a total funding for the project of £10.128m.

13. Together these two allocations resulted in Darlington benefiting from a third of the total allocation awarded to all the local Authorities in the North East. In addition the allocation is almost double that received by any of the other north-eastern authorities. On a national level only 3 other local authorities were awarded more Targeted Capital Funding than Darlington (except BSF One-school pathfinder funding) and each of these were large rural authorities.
14. This level of investment for Hummersknott and Carmel schools will allow real change to be made in the accommodation with large areas of the schools being demolished and replaced and the remainder significantly refurbished.
15. This report, and the further agenda item regarding an Academy, describe a number of excellent investment opportunities for the boroughs secondary schools. The success in securing this Government funding will enable the Council to now address the condition of the remaining two secondary schools, Branksome and Longfield. Having secured funding for Carmel, Hummersknott, the Education Village and having the potential of an Academy for Hurworth and Eastbourne we are now in a much stronger position to concentrate the formulaic secondary school capital funding the Authority receives towards Branksome and Longfield. In addition these two schools would become the priority schools for any future potential corporate or central government capital investment. A further report will be prepared updating the investment strategy.

Outcome of Consultation

16. Consultation took place with Hummersknott and Carmel schools in the drafting of the targeted capital bid. No wider consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

Legal Implications

17. 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

18. 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

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

Decision Deadline

20. For the purpose of the ‘call-in’ procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Key Decisions

21. The report constitutes a key decision impacting on more than two wards within the area of the local authority.

Recommendations

22. It is recommended that Members :-

- (a) Note the successful TCF bids for Hummersknott School and Language College (supporting capital investment of £14.541m), and for Carmel RC Technology College (supporting capital investment of £10.128m).
- (b) Note the contextual information included in this report which provides an overview of the long-term strategic commitment to secondary school transformation across the authority; and
- (c) Note the intention to update the investment strategy to address the outstanding needs of schools in the secondary school sector.

Reason

23. The recent funding secured to invest in the physical infrastructure of our secondary estate will contribute to delivering tremendous improvements in the environments in which our teachers teach and our children learn.

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

Background Papers

Report to Governors from Director of Education – April 2004 – outcome of consultation
Correspondence from DfES – 29 November 2004 – Wave 2 and 3 BSF Announcement
Correspondence and Guidance from DfES – 24 February 2005 – TCF Funding
Cabinet Report – 12 April 2005 – Targeted Capital Fund 2005
Correspondence from DfES – 12 October 2005 – Successful TCF bids

David Chambers: Extension 2026