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**FEDERATION OF ABBEY SCHOOLS – TARGETED CAPITAL FUND BID**

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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 inform Members of a successful bid submitted by the Authority on behalf of the Federation of Abbey Schools.

**Information and Analysis**

2. On the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006, The Federation of Abbey Schools contacted Children’s Services to seek the written support of the Local Authority for a capital bid they wished to submit to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The bid aimed to take advantage of potential capital investment to schools involved in a formal Federation. The bid is to create a shared arts and sports complex (Hall) that will support the Federation work of the school and deliver greater extended schools / community engagement.
3. As the bidding information had only been sent to federated schools and not copied to LA’s, the school’s approach was unexpected and the timetable for submission was extremely tight.
4. The funding mechanism was via the Targeted Capital Fund programme, a fund the Local Authority has bid into successfully on a number of previous occasions. Children’s Services worked with the schools to develop the bid in the short time available.
5. As the deadline for submissions was 30th June and the announcement of successful bids 31st July, it was not possible to gain approval from Cabinet to submit a bid and still meet the DfES submission deadline. Having now received the result of the bid, this paper informs members of the submission of the bid and subsequent result.
6. On The 31st July DfES informed Children’s Services that the Abbey Schools Federation Bid had been successful. The DfES will support the project with £480k, which must be matched by £120k provided by the school. The funding breakdown of the project is shown in the table below.

Devolved Capital contribution from schools 2007-8 budgets	£ 40,000
Prudential Borrowing by Federation	£ 60,000
Money raised by Abbey Parents and Friends Association	£ 20,000
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION BY FEDERATION (20%)</b>	<b>£120,000</b>
Targeted Capital Funding (80%)	£480,000
<b>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</b>	<b>£600,000</b>

7. In conjunction with the school and other stakeholders a detailed project brief will be drawn up and architects will be instructed to undertake a detailed feasibility study of the project.
8. It is difficult to place an accurate timetable on the project until feasibility has fully assessed local conditions. A completion date of Christmas 2007 should be achievable. However the school will be undertaking major fundraising and may therefore wish to progress the project a little more slowly. DfES require TCF funding to be expended by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

9. Consultation with users will be undertaken during the feasibility assessment. Once feasibility has been established consultation will be rolled out to all stakeholders.

### **Legal Implications**

10. 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**

11. 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**

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

### **Decision Deadline**

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

### **Recommendation**

14. It is recommended that Members agree the successful bid which will see a further £600,000 of capital funding invested in a Darlington school

## **Reasons**

15. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) The new school hall will provide Abbey Schools with a much-needed facility to offer improved sports and arts teaching.
- (b) The new hall will provide extended school facilities which will aid the school in its aim to be at the heart of the local community.

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

## **Background Papers**

DfES TCF Funding Bid Guidance

Kevin Duffy: Extension 2818