
KITCHEN FUNDING AND THE RELEASE OF CAPITAL

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Jenny Chapman,
Children and Young People Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Murray Rose Director of Children’s Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members’ agreement to release the capital funds in relation to this grant.

Summary

2. A bid was made to DCSF for funding for the refurbishment and improvement of kitchen and dining facilities in twelve Darlington primary schools. The total amount awarded by DCSF was £378,598.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note the report for information.
 - (b) Agree to the release of £378,598 kitchen grant to the twelve schools noted in this report.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reason:-

This grant is designated for one purpose only and is consistent with the Children’s Plan and departmental objectives.

**Murray Rose,
Director of Children’s Services**

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	The project will enable more pupils to eat healthier, more nutritious school meals in friendlier, relaxed atmospheres. This will improve educational, social and emotional outcomes.
Sustainability	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
Diversity	The schools sit within a mix of deprived and relatively affluent areas.
Wards Affected	Wards where pupils or staff from the 12 schools featured live or attend school.
Groups Affected	Children aged 3 – 11.
Budget and Policy Framework	Funding from DCSF grant.
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This grant is consistent with the Healthy Darlington strand: Narrowing Health Gaps and Emotional Health, Obesity in Young People and Healthy Workplaces.
Efficiency	This capital grant will contribute to replacing inefficient equipment in school kitchens.

MAIN REPORT

Funder details

5. The fund was announced by DCSF in December 2008. The fund was designed for local Authorities to bid for, and had four objectives centred on improving school meal provision:
 - a. improving the quality of food,
 - b. increasing the seating capacity of dining areas,
 - c. improving the dining environment,
 - d. decreasing queuing time.
6. In order to succeed, Authorities had to commit to matching capital funding on all projects.
7. Darlington submitted an expression of interest in December 2008 and a full application to the fund in February 2009, with the intention to use Primary Capital Programme funds, as well as modernisation and other capital grant money, to match the funding as required by the terms of the bid.

Proposed Breakdown by School

8. The total grant Darlington received was £378,598. This is to be split between the 12 original schools that worked with the LA to form the initial bid.
9. To distribute the grant fairly, the bids from schools were assessed against various criteria of need to produce the framework below. The framework was built on the following principles:
 - a. £60,000 for kitchen with the most urgent need, possible condemnation of the kitchen, severe concerns.
 - b. £40,000 for the second priority kitchens. These need the extra investment to make them excellent.
 - c. £20,000 for additional kitchen facilities designed to allow a broader range of options to be served.
 - d. Any residual funds less than £10,000 to be targeted towards projects that need additional pump priming to allow kitchens to be refurbished to a higher standard.
10. The projects have therefore been allocated the proposed funding as follows:

School	Funding	Proposed project
Whinfield	£ 60,000	New dining and kitchen equipment
Heathfield	£ 60,000	Refurbishment of kitchen
Hurworth	£ 40,000 + £ 10,000	New kitchen / refurbishment project (£10,000 extra judged necessary due to specific condition of the building)
Heighington	£ 40,000	Various items in kitchen for better serving options / refurbishment of dining area
Reid Street	£ 40,000	Remodel dining area and kitchen
Dodmire	£ 40,000	New kitchen / extension of dining hall
Abbey	£ 20,000 + £ 5,000	Creation of new kitchen from current two, single dining space plus a kitchen for pupils and lessons (£5,000 extra judged necessary due to condition of the building)
Gurney Pease	£ 20,000	Minor remodel to address health and safety issue
Mount Pleasant	£ 20,000	Quiet multi-use patio area for dining
Corporation Road	£ 7,866	Remodel dining area / kitchen
St Teresa's	£ 7,866	Pupil preparation space / new serving equipment
Red Hall	£ 7,866	Refurbishment of kitchen to include pupil preparation space
Total	£378,598	

Conclusion

11. A way of breaking down the funding grant has been proposed with the allocations given above. This funding is matched and part of our larger Primary Capital Programme so Cabinet are asked to agree to these allocations, in order to allow current the projects to continue as planned and already agreed by Cabinet.