

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

CABINET

DATE: 24 APRIL 2006

**REPORT OF: DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET
MEMBER FOR STRATEGY AND
FINANCE**

**LEAD
OFFICER: INTERIM DIVISIONAL MANAGER,
PLANNING AND RESOURCES**

**SUBJECT: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE ONE-SCHOOL
PATHFINDER**

WARDS: TEDDINGTON

KEY DECISION?: YES

IF YES, IN FORWARD PLAN?: YES

Agenda Item No.

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For general release

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 The report provides an update on action taken since the last report to Cabinet on 16 January 2006, with regard to the £23m capital grant from the DfES for the rebuilding of one secondary school under the Building Schools for the Future One-School Pathfinder initiative. In addition, the report recommends that approval for funding agreed by Cabinet for specialist advice/preliminary works until the end of March 2006 be extended into the 2006/07 financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet extend the approval for expenditure of up to £200,000 relating to specialist advice/preliminary works for the Building Schools for the Future One-School Pathfinder into the 2006/07 financial year.**

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Cabinet met on 16 January 2006 to approve the recommendation that Teddington School should be the site taken forward for final negotiations with the DfES.

- 3.2 In line with timetable requirements, a further submission was made to the DfES on 18 January 2006 which included the rationale for selecting Teddington as the One-School Pathfinder. Officers met with DfES officials on 27 January 2006 for a briefing meeting which reiterated the key points for all BSF projects, which included Education vision, design and procurement issues, ICT, grouped procurement arrangements and framework agreements. There was also an opportunity for questions and answers.
- 3.3 The second stage submission to the DfES was made on 31 March 2006. This met the mandatory requirements with regard to; school improvement and raising standards, the 14-19 agenda, extended schools, ICT across the curriculum and provision of SEN, the submission of Teddington's bid for a sixth form and the development of a second specialism. All necessary procurement routes and building matters were also addressed, including the assessment that the project could realistically be delivered in December 2008 rather than the required September 2008 deadline.
- 3.4 The DfES is timetabled to respond to Richmond uponThames One-School Pathfinder proposals, including any agreement to proceed, in early May.
- 3.5 Expenditure thus far from the from the previously agreed £200,000 for specialist advice and preliminary works is £44,200, comprising £23,100 for technical advice and £21,100 for preliminary works such as borehole/trail pits, services investigations and geotechnical mapping plus money for school's use of curriculum consultants KPMG.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken with regard to the priorities and needs of the secondary and special schools in the Borough, the detail of which is contained in the previous Cabinet reports of 5 December 2005 and 16 January 2006.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As reported to Cabinet on 5 December 2005 and 16 January 2006, the offer of capital grant is subject to the scheme proposed by the Council being able to meet the terms and conditions set out by the DfES. These include guidelines on spend for different elements of the scheme and a very challenging timescale.
- 5.2 As detailed above the Council has now made its second stage submission to the DfES and is awaiting to hear the outcome which is due early May. Only if agreement is reached will the Council receive the £23m grant.
- 5.3 It is proposed that authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Schools and the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy and Finance to approve expenditure of up to £155,800 in the financial year 2006/07 for any further specialist advice/preliminary works that may be required by the DfES in relation to this project. Expenditure thus far on the project is detailed at paragraph 3.5.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Building Schools for the Future One-School Pathfinder is an opportunity to provide a modern and up to date secondary school which will support the aims of the Council's 10 year vision for excellence. If final DfES agreement to proceed is received, this capital grant will also support the work of the Council in meeting the needs of the local community in providing sufficient high quality school places and post-16 education in secondary schools. It will also contribute significantly to the achievement of a wide range of targets for the new integrated Education and Children's Service, set out in 'Every Child Matters'.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

A full risk analysis will be carried out as part of the project development. At this stage the key risk to the Council is in progressing a scheme that meets the requirements of the DfES and secures the longer term funding required. This will inevitably mean investing in the development of the scheme without the guarantee of recovering this investment at this stage. As this represents a unique opportunity to obtain major Government investment in the refurbishment of a secondary school, it is considered that the opportunity outweighs the initial risks identified.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT/CONSIDERATIONS

The Building School for the Future One-School Pathfinder is an opportunity to provide a modern and up to date secondary school which will support the raising of standards and high quality education. This strategy is consistent with the Council's 10 year vision, the equalities policy to provide excellent education.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from the matters referred to in this report.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Second stage submission to the DfES 31 March 2006
Rationale submission to the DfES 18 January 2006
Cabinet Report 16 January 2006
Cabinet Report 5 December 2006
Education & Culture Overview & Scrutiny report 1 December 2005

11. CONTACTS

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