

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**MONDAY 24 MARCH 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

**10**

**LEA CO-ORDINATED VOLUNTARY AIDED PROGRAMME (LC VAP) – FUNDING FOR CAPITAL WORKS VA SCHOOLS 2003/04**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

**1. Purpose of report**

To present the list of schemes for LC VAP funding in 2003/04 that has been recommended by the CSF Resources Panel.

**2. Summary**

The report explains the process which follows DfES guidelines for prioritising the Voluntary Aided capital bids and it lists in appendix 4 all the schemes which can be funded in 2003/04.

**3. Conclusion**

The Cabinet is requested to consider the proposed list of capital schemes.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the L.E.A. to allocate the DfES funds available to Voluntary Aided schemes which have the highest priority.

#### **5. Available Funds**

- 5.1 There are 3 funding streams from the DfES for Capital works in Voluntary Aided Schools in 2003/04.

- 5.2 For Hertfordshire there is:

(i)	“condition”	£1,587,872
(ii)	“basic” LEA, co-ordinated VA Programme (LC VAP)	£1,621,496
(iii)	“modernisation”	£1,491,632

- 5.3 The DfES at Darlington treats these as one budget which totals £4,701,000

#### **6. Bidding Process**

As in previous years and according to DfES guidelines all VA schools were invited to bid for a share of this funding from the 2003/04 programme

#### **7. Prioritisation Process**

- 7.1 Alick Burge and Sally Livesey, the buildings officers from the St Albans Diocese and the Archdiocese of Westminster, prioritised the bids from their respective schools (C of E and RC) using Asset Management information.

- 7.2 There followed a joint meeting with them and a representative from each of the other Voluntary Aided schools not attached to a diocese. (The DfES has encouraged LEAs with more than one Voluntary Aided body to have this type of meeting).

The other schools represented were:

Dame Alice Owen’s	John Harber (Deputy Head)
Hertsmere Jewish Primary	Alison Shaw (Governor)
Parmiters	Brendan Silke (Bursar)
St George’s	Mike Downs (Bursar)
Watford Boys Grammar	Andrew Beaumont (Deputy Head)
Watford Girls Grammar	Pat Brocklebank (Deputy Head)
St Clement Danes	David Heward (School Manager) was unable to attend due to illness.

7.3 At the meeting priorities were agreed using the Asset Management information on condition sufficiency and suitability. The share of funding for each of the different VA Authorities was also a factor in the allocation process.

## **8. Allocations**

8.1 Given the money available it is possible to complete the first 13 out of 30 schemes for condition; 13 out of 35 for basic LC VAP (sufficiency); and 7 out of 12 for modernisation (suitability).

8.2 Following the meeting the priorities were confirmed to those present.

8.3 A report was presented to the CSF Resources Panel on 12 March 2003 and the Panel recommended the proposed list of capital schemes to the Cabinet for approval.

8.4 Important points

- It is for the LEA to decide the priorities for the spending of this money even though schools access it direct from the DfES at Darlington.
- Spreadsheets 1, 2 and 3 give detail for the 3 funding streams.
- Spreadsheet 4 shows all the schemes which are proposed for completion in 2003/04.
- There are some commitments from last year as shown on spreadsheet 4.
- There is still a small unallocated amount which will act as a contingency to cover unforeseen costs and/or for any emergency work during the year.