

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 15 MARCH 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

9

**LEA CO-ORDINATED VOLUNTARY AIDED PROGRAMME (LC VAP) –
FUNDING FOR CAPITAL WORKS VA SCHOOLS 2004/05**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To describe the process for the prioritisation of bids from VA schools for the LC VAP funding in 2004/05.
- 1.2 To present the list of schemes for approval for submission to the DfES.

2. Summary

The report explains the process which follows DfES guidelines for prioritising the Voluntary Aided capital bids and it lists in appendix 1 all the schemes which can be funded in 2004/05.

The list is to be considered by the Schools' Resources Panel at the meeting on 3 March 2004. The views of the Panel will be reported to Cabinet separately.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is asked to consider the proposed list of schemes.

4. Background

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the LEA 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 2004/05.

- 5.2 For Hertfordshire the levels of funding originally indicated by DfES (March 2003) were

(i)	“basic” LEA, co-ordinated VA Programme (LC VAP)	£ 524,216
(ii)	“modernisation”	£3,250,173
(iii)	“access”	£ 819,088

- 5.3 The DfES treats these as one budget totalling £4,593,477. This year, however, all LEAs have been advised that, in the light of recent pressures on costs, they may only allocate in the first instance up to 50% of the indicative level. For Hertfordshire this is £2,296,739. Notification of the final amount allocated to each LEA will not be made until February/March 2004, and DfES has warned that it is likely to revise its indicated figure.

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 2004/05 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) & Gill Keating (Bursar)
Loreto College	Maire Lynch (Headteacher)
Parmiters	Brian Coulshed (Head) & Brendan Silke (Bursar)
St George’s	Mike Dines (Bursar)
Watford Boys Grammar	Mark Alchorn (Deputy Head)
Watford Girls Grammar	Pat Brocklebank (Deputy Head)
St Clement Danes	Ian Moore (Deputy Head) & David Heward (School Manager)

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. A total of 17 schemes was identified as being most urgent and a priority order established.

8. Allocations

8.1 A total of £1,561,825 is already committed for projects from last year. This leaves only £734,914 to commit for new projects to take us up to the 50% (ie £2,296,739). It will therefore only be possible to complete the first of the new schemes, namely the replacement mobiles at Parmiter's School, and to part fund the new roof at St Bartholomew's, Wigginton, and the new classroom at Northaw Primary.

8.2 The remaining 15 schemes will be completed in priority order as and when funds are made available.

8.3 Following the meeting the priorities were confirmed to those present. They are now brought for your recommendation before they are sent to the DfES as the Hertfordshire LEA co-ordinated programme for 2004/05.

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.
- Appendix 1 shows

1. Commitments from last year to be funded in 2004/05
2. New schemes proposed for funding in 2004/5
3. New schemes to be funded in 2004/05 as and when further monies released
4. Schemes unable to be funded in 2004/05