

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 12 JULY 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item
No.

9

**ST GEORGE'S HARPENDEN, ST CLEMENT DANES RICKMANSWORTH,
AND TURNFORD CHESHUNT SCHOOLS**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 For Cabinet to agree in principle that HCC will allocate funding to these schemes, that are already in the capital programme but with insufficient funding.

2. Summary

2.1 These are all longstanding, high priority projects that have been in the capital programme for some time.

2.2 The extra forms of entry are essential, and the statutory processes for school enlargement and town planning approval need to be progressed.

2.3 For this to happen the Governing Bodies at St George's and St Clement Danes need reassurance of the Authority's commitment to bridge the funding gaps.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Cabinet is asked to support the inclusion of the additional funding for the St George's and St Clement Danes schemes in the 2005/06 capital programme i.e. £300,000 for St Georges and up to £1,000,000 for St Clement Danes.

3.2 The scheme at Turnford School will require a report to Cabinet in the autumn to establish a capital project in the current financial year.

4 Background

- 4.1 Cabinet will be aware that discussions have been held with both St George's and St Clement Danes about capital projects to enable each school to take an extra form of entry.
- 4.2 Turnford is part of the wider Cheshunt scheme to increase the number of places by moving and enlarging St Mary's and enlarging both Goffs and Turnford.
- 4.3 Members will recall agreeing the Goffs scheme at Cabinet on 14 June.

5 St George's

- 5.1 The objective of the scheme is to enable the School to admit an additional form of entry. The necessary building project has secured targeted capital funding from DfES of £4.6m (the governors have a 10% liability on this allocation).
- 5.2 Initial discussions with the School have identified that the School considers the total cost of the scheme would be £5.24m.
- 5.3 The Authority has already identified £600,000 from basic need to meet the Governors 10% plus a contribution of £140,000 towards the total cost.
- 5.4 A funding gap of £500k remains (£5.24m minus £4.6m + £140k). The School is prepared to find £200k leaving £300k sought from HCC.
- 5.5 The school would be prepared to expand by 30 pupils per year from the September 2005 year 7 intake if the County Council provides the additional £300k.

6 St Clement Danes

- 6.1 The Authority has already put £3 million in the capital programme to enable St Clement Danes to take an additional form of entry.
- 6.2 The School's latest estimate for the cost of the work they consider necessary is £3.8 – £4.0 million.
- 6.3 The School are therefore seeking an additional £800,000 - £1m to complete the scheme.

7 Turnford

- 7.1 The total cost of the Turnford scheme is approximately £4.74m, inclusive of Football Association grant of £410k. The cost to HCC is therefore some £4.35m.
- 7.2 Indicative figures for Turnford are already in the capital programme subject to Cabinet approval of the detail of the project. The entry in the capital programme would be covered by a capital receipt. This is now delayed as a result of a judicial review.

8 Borrowing

- 8.1 To complete these three schemes, on the basis of the initial estimates, needs a maximum of some additional £5.65 million.
- 8.2 This could be achieved by additional prudential borrowing. Cash flow profiles for these schemes have not yet been finalised; but, given the size of the schemes, the likely cash flow profile would imply that the additional resource would be required in 2005/06 or later.
- 8.3 There would be minimal impact on the borrowing requirement in the current year. The detailed funding for these schemes can be reviewed as part of the formulation of next year's capital programme.