

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

12 May 2009

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services  
Paul Briggs, Assistant Director, Resources and Support Services  
Alan Kell, Project Manager  
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer  
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

### **54. Schools Capital Works Programme For 2009/10 and 2010/11 – Director of Children's Services**

#### **Type of Decision**

Key (tests 1 and 2 apply)

#### **Purpose of Report**

The report was presented in order to seek approval to the Schools Capital Works Programme for 2009/10 and approval in principle to an outline programme for 2010/11.

#### **Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined funding available to carry out Capital Works in Hartlepool Schools, including that provided by the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) and Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

On an annual basis the Authority received Government funding to support, maintain and develop school buildings. Individual schools had their own maintenance budgets which generally focussed on day to day repairs whilst the Authority tended to support major replacement or refurbishment projects. In addition schools also received pupil based Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) via the Local Authority or in the case of Voluntary Aided schools, the local diocese. The prime motivation behind the works programme was to realise improvements in education and raise levels of attainment and to provide a safe and stimulating working environment for both staff

and pupils. There was also major capital investment in the Authority's schools buildings via £104 million from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and £8.4 million Primary Capital Programme (PCP).

A sub group of the Schools' Forum made up of head teachers and officers from the Local Authority had been established to develop a much more co-ordinated approach to all capital investment in Hartlepool schools including taking steps to harness all available funding to ensure all schools could be brought up to the highest standards with a clear direction in terms of on-going maintenance and future development. The report gave details of the funding available for 2009/10 and 2010/11. All schools would be asked to make contributions towards their own schemes from available DCF funding of at least 10%. The Authority would set aside contingency funds in each year's programme to cover unexpected capital works such as roof or boiler replacements.

An appendix to the report outlined works which would be carried out in 2009/10 and 2010/11 including support of the BSF and PCP programmes by refurbishments to facilitate the decant of Dyke House pupils and a contribution towards the Space to Learn Project. Work was also to be undertaken to upgrade access facilities at the Brinkburn pool.

The Portfolio Holder was assured that all head teachers had expressed support for the Schools Forum Capital Sub-Group. It was established that bar the most urgent work, no money would be spent on Jesmond Road and Rossmere schools which had been earmarked as the first stage in the PCP programme. The devolved capital from these schools would be put aside for books, equipment and furniture.

The Portfolio Holder expressed a wish that future school buildings should be more ecologically sound to include items such as solar panels and the Assistant Director, Resources and Support Services agreed to pass these comments on to the Client Design Advisor.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged the work of officers in setting up the Schools Forum Capital Sub-Group.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder approved the School Capital Works Programme for 2009/10 and the outline programme for 2010/11 in principle.

The Portfolio Holder also agreed that the Children's Services Department be allowed dispensation and discretion to authorise works not included in the initial programmes of work but where a significant health and safety risk was exposed in advance of formal

approval by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

## **55. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – Governor Support Officer**

### **Type of Decision**

Non key.

### **Purpose of Report**

The report was presented in order to request the Portfolio Holder's consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently existed and to those which will exist in the Autumn term following the expiry of terms of office for a number of Governors.

### **Issues for Consideration**

Applications had been invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office was about to expire or had expired who were interested in serving or wished to serve as a Local Authority representative governor on school governing bodies. Criteria had been agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of Local Education Authority representative governors in 2000. A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies had been considered by members of the General Purposes Sub Committee at their meeting held on 20 March 2009 and this had been circulated as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was established that since a recent change in regulations, Local Authority elected Members were unable to be either parent or community governors to allow for more parental representation on governing bodies.

### **Decision**

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services approved recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies as outlined in the appendix to the report previously circulated.

**P J DEVLIN**  
**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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