



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
ALL

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
STRATEGIC RESOURCES GROUP
CABINET**

**22 JUNE 2004
12 JULY 2004**

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PREMISES
AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE**

Report of the Corporate Director of Resources Access & Diversity

ADDENDUM TO REPORT

1.0 OPTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTING DFES FUNDING TO CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 1.1 The options, as stated, involve Education contributing a sum ranging from £300k to £1 million.
- 1.2 It needs to be noted that DfES funding reduces by £1.5 m next year.
- 1.3 The potential sources for funding this are as follows:

	04/05 £000	05/06 £000	06/07 £000
Temporary Classrooms	2,200,000	2,200,000	TBA
School Amalgamations	300,000	500,000	TBA
Modernisation	250,000	250,000	TBA

- 1.4 The impact would be as follows:

a) Primary Temporary Classrooms

The current target is to remove all mobile classrooms by 2008. Cutting this would not be popular because:

- At its meeting on 10 February 2004 Scrutiny resolved “its desire to see the removal of temporary classrooms in primary schools and welcomes the efforts laid out in the plan for this”.

- Primary heads have expressed major concern at the priority investment that secondary schools have received (secondary review, which included mobile replacements) and are projected to receive (BSF).
- This is a major historic backlog with mobiles invariably in very poor condition.
- This has an impact on learning and on the raising standards agenda.

b) Schools Amalgamations

The Authority currently is seeking to promote all through primary schools and also to reduce surplus places which is a key (bottom quartile) CPA indicator. This funding is needed for an ongoing amalgamation programme.

c) Modernising the School Learning Environment.

This year's three proposals are attached. A major purpose of the DfES' funding is for modernisation in order to raise standards. The learning environment in many of our schools is very poor, and also costly to improve, even with a schools contribution. Given the relative prioritisation of a) and b) there are limited remaining funds for this purpose.

Secondary School Modernisation – Priority Bids

The Lancaster School

Bid - Adaptations/refurbishment of existing classrooms to provide 2 computer suites.

Assessment of bid

Total Project cost - £122,348. Requested £84,348 from Modernisation fund £72,718 is for furniture & equipment (*Guidance states that equipment should be peripheral to main scheme and not a major part of total project expenditure*)

Approval is now sought for £49,630 for the building works

Gained 90 marks

Category A – Suitability Survey

Project

In order for the school to meet the national target of achieving an ICT machine ratio of 1:5, they require two additional suites.

The refurbishment proposal includes redecoration, security, networking, furniture, air conditioning, 63 networked computers. However, this work will have to be met by the school, as they are not admissible under the published criteria.

Moat Community College

Bid - Maximising available space for teaching

Assessment of bid

Total Project cost - £227,000. Requested £100,000 from Modernisation fund

Gained 90 marks

Category 2 High H&S – Suitability Survey

Project

Main issues surround the small rooms, which have no natural ventilation or light. Increased levels of sickness absence amongst staff due to conditions.

- Increasing the size of E6 by removing corridor wall to become storage area for E6 & Learning Support
- Small lecture theatre, poor ventilation – unusable during summer. Floor to be raised to equal stage height, which will increase seating capacity.
- Library adaptations to include moving the resource manager's workstation to enable visual contact with all library users & will provide a withdrawal area or interview space for mentoring.
- Drawing Design - door to be knocked through to wood store area, to increase storage space
- Addressing workforce re-modelling & work life balance issues by increasing office space throughout college.

Beaumont Leys

Bid – Modernisation of 3 Science Labs

Assessment of bid

Total project cost - £152,723. Requested £100,000 from Modernisation fund

Gained 90 marks

Category 2 – Suitability Survey

Project

Refurbish 3 labs. The current layout of the rooms and the heavy fixed furniture presents serious constraints on classroom management. Currently 2 of the rooms have obstructions in the middle of the floor, which cause problems for the delivery of the science curriculum in the 21st Century. The school is aiming for Specialist Science School status from September 2005.

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

1 BACKGROUND

As referred to in the report the views of both schools through the Schools Forum and the other services through the Strategic Resources Group have been sort on the various options in relation to prioritisation / apportionment of funding. In addition what if any of the money the authority receives from DfES should be contributed towards addressing the identified maintenance priorities in schools. The views of the 2 groups are set out below.

2 SCHOOLS FORUM

The Schools Forum at their meeting on the 17 June 2004 did not support any of the options for using DfES funds to support CMF / Landlord functions. It was felt that there was insufficient evidence to justify such a transfer at this stage.

3 MINUTES OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES GROUP MEETING 22ND JUNE 2004

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PREMISES

After a long debate it was agreed to support option 1 and 5 within section 6 of the report.