



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**27 APRIL 2004**

Report of the Director of Education

## **Education Service Capital Projects – Phase Two 2004/05**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To approve Seed Challenge and Schools Access projects outlined in Appendices 2 and 5.
- 1.2 To approve projects in Voluntary Aided schools as shown in Appendix 4.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Seed Challenge projects are in line with the requirements of Seed Challenge funding.
- 2.2 LEAs are required to co-ordinate the Voluntary Aided schools capital programme in conjunction with the Catholic Diocese and Church of England Diocese.
- 2.3 The proposed schemes shown in Appendix 5 relate to use of Schools Access Initiative funding to assist the integration of children, parents, community users and staff with impaired mobility into mainstream schools. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), as amended by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Act 2001, places a duty on all schools and Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to plan to increase over time the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Seed Challenge Funding is intended to provide schools with access to funding for curriculum-related building projects, with an emphasis on reducing the backlog of building repairs. The Council has been allocated funding of £303,895 towards projects, which needs to be used by the 31 August 2005. Unallocated funding from 2003-2004 for £18,446 is available for use until 31 August 2004. A total sum of £322,341 is available in 2004/05.
- 3.2 The proposed seed projects totalling £68,553 are shown in Appendix 2. This leaves a balance of £253,788 unallocated for further projects. Schools will continue to be encouraged to propose further projects in order to maximise use of this capital funding.

- 3.3 A requirement of this funding is that it should be allocated on the basis of a contribution as match funding from the school towards the cost of the project. For primary schools this would be a 50% contribution, and for secondary schools a 67% contribution. The matched funding element needs to be “new money” through fund raising or sponsorship. Only a small proportion of this can come from school budgets.
- 3.4 While match funding is a requirement for all projects supported by this funding, the requirement for this to be from ‘new money’ or external sources is relaxed for projects which support a range of government educational priorities and meet specific criteria:
- Support schools causing concern, particularly those in challenging circumstances, where well-planned capital investment, linked to other improvement measures, can impact strongly on raising standards
  - Support the school workforce programme
  - Support the development of a broader, more flexible curriculum for 14-19 year olds, in line with Green Paper proposals
  - Expand successful schools
  - Support the inclusion agenda, including measures to improve behaviour and projects for improved facilities for children with Special Educational Needs.
- 3.5 The Education Service set up a representative group to consider and prioritise seed applications in accordance with DfES criteria. The group membership included a head teacher, a surveyor, and asset management planning and finance officers from the Education Service. This ensures transparency in the prioritisation process. The projects listed in Appendix 2 were considered to meet the criteria.
- 3.6 The projects that the group were unable to recommend are shown in Appendix 3. This was primarily due to projects not meeting the specific funding criteria, or not meeting the definition of capital works.
- 3.7 The DfES has confirmed that this will be the final year for seed funding. Current guidance states that the funding can only be claimed for costs incurred up to August 2005.
- 3.8 The allocation from the DfES for Voluntary Aided (VA) school projects for 2004-2005 is £288,650, comprising £259,784 VA funding, and £28,866 which is the 10% Governors’ contribution towards projects. The funding is to be used to address AMP (Asset Management Planning) condition, suitability and sufficiency issues in VA schools.
- 3.9 At this stage, only 50% of the allocation for VA funding has been released by the DfES. A further £288,650 should be available for VA projects later in the year. Further projects will be considered following notification from the DfES.
- 3.10 Detailed discussions have taken place with the Catholic and Church of England Dioceses in considering priority projects in accordance with asset Management Planning (AMP) criteria. Projects have been prioritised in accordance with the AMP Local Policy Statement and Statement of Priorities. The proposed projects are shown in Appendix 4.
- 3.11 The Council is required to forward the proposed VA projects to the DfES following Cabinet approval. Information needs to be sent to the DfES by the end of April 2004.

- 3.12 The Diocese is responsible for designing and developing VA projects and to submit necessary grant claims to the DfES. There are important DfES dates within the financial year for when claims must be processed. It is important for the Diocese to start the design drawing and the tendering process as quickly as possible.
- 3.13 The Council has been allocated funding for Schools Access Initiative projects. The allocation for 2004-2005 is £427,760. This funding needs to be used to improve access to mainstream schools, including physical access, improving the internal environment for disabled pupils, and improving access to the National Curriculum by using specialist furniture and equipment, including ICT.
- 3.14 Phase one of the proposed access projects totalling £161,439 are shown in Appendix 5. Further projects will be prioritised from the balance of funding of £266,321. Projects are prioritised in accordance with the DDA strategy and Council's strategy for improving disabled access in school buildings.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There is no option but prioritise Seed Challenge Funding in accordance with the DfES funding criteria.
- 4.2 Voluntary Aided funding projects need to be prioritised in accordance with the AMP Statement of Priorities and Local Policy Statement.
- 4.3 There is no option but to prioritise Schools Access Initiative funding to improve access to mainstream schools in accordance with the DfES funding criteria.

**For more information contact:** Gurmail Nizzer / 01332 716951/ [gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk](mailto:gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk)

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Implications  
Appendix 2 – Seed Challenge Projects  
Appendix 3 – Unsuccessful Seed Challenge Project  
Appendix 4 – Voluntary Aided School Projects  
Appendix 5 - Schools Access Initiative Projects

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

- 1.1 Seed Challenge Capital funding of £303,895 has been allocated to the Council for 2004-2005, with a carry forward of £18,446 unallocated from 2003-2004 as detailed in the main body of this report.
- 1.2 The Council is only able to claim seed funding for actual work undertaken and costs incurred by the 31 August 2005.
- 1.3 The Voluntary Aided funding is on the basis of a grant to the Diocese. The funding is co-ordinated by the LEA and administered directly by the DfES.
- 1.4 The Diocese is only able to claim grant for actual work undertaken and costs incurred by the end of the financial year, or such other due date as determined by the DfES.
- 1.5 The DfES has allocated Derby City £427,760 for the Schools Access Initiative funding, excluding Voluntary Aided funding as detailed in the main body of this report.

### Legal

- 2.1 There are no further legal implications directly arising from these projects. The priority projects are, however, important for Health and Safety reasons and to conform to Building and Workplace Regulations 1992. Health and Safety procedures will be followed. Guidance relating to conduct of capital projects in schools is under review in light of Silverhill Primary School.
- 2.2 The Disability Discrimination Act, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001, places a duty on all schools and LEAs to plan to increase over time the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils.

### Personnel

3. None

### Corporate Themes and Priorities

4. Capital investment in schools will contribute to the corporate objectives of **education where provision responds to people's needs, so they can develop skills leading to better life choices and chances.**

## APPENDIX 2

### Recommended Seed Challenge Projects 2004/05

School	Project Details	Seed funding requested	School's Contribution	Total Cost	Ward	Qtr
<b>Primary</b>						
Borrow Wood Junior	Replacement of timber stud bracing to exterior walls	£750	£750	£1,500	Spondon	Q1/04
Gayton Junior	Replacement of school Corridor	£20,000	*£102,018	£122,018	Blagreaves	Q1/04
Homefields Primary	New Garage/Shed to store PE equipment	£553	£2,000	£2,553	Chellaston	Q1/04
PearTree Infant	Creation of covered outdoor area for foundation stage pupils	£2,000	£8,418	£10,418	Arboretum	Q1/04
Ridgeway Infant	Relocation of steps in school Library	£1,500	£1,500	£3,000	Blagreaves	Q1/04
St Chads CE Infant School	Provision of shaded area in foundation playground	£2,000	£5,000	£7,000	Arboretum	Q1/04
St Werburgh's Catholic Primary	Re-modelling of two classrooms to form a foundation stage 2 teaching area.	£1,750	£1,750	£3,500	Spondon	Q1/04
<b>Secondary</b>						
Littleover	Build two additional laboratories plus preparation area and storage room.	£40,000	**£300,000	£340,000	Littleover	Q1/04
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£68,553</b>				
	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>£322,341</b>				
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£253,788</b>				

\*Gayton School – Note this figure includes the required 50% matched funding of £20,000 from “new money”. The balance is coming from the school's revenue and devolved capital funding. £6,000 from Schools Access Initiative.

\*\*Littleover School - Note that this figure includes £100,000 DFES Specialist Status Capital Grant, £69,500 Sponsorship & PSA Fundraising, £69,500 Seed Challenge Capital 2003/2004, & £61,000 School's Delegated Budget.

## APPENDIX 3

### Not recommended Seed Challenge bids

School	Project Details	Seed funding requested	School's Contribution	Total Cost	Ward	Reason project is not recommended
Brackensdale Infant	Redecorate two classrooms	£500	£500	£1,000	Mackworth	Guidance states that the capital funding must not be used for general maintenance, redecoration or routine repairs.
Carlyle Infants	Replacement of tables in corridors/teaching area.	£473	£473	£945	Blagreaves	This funding support is for capital expenditure on buildings, not on equipment unless it is incidental to a larger building project.
Ridgeway Infants	Creation of external door in classroom giving direct access outside	£3,000	£3,000	£6,000	Blagreaves	Where the project does not support guidance priorities, 50% of the balance provided by the school must be new money. School's funding was to come from devolved capital allocation.
Sunnyhill Infants	New roof to School Nursery	£13,500	£13,500	£27,000	Normanton	Where the project does not support guidance priorities, 50% of the balance provided by the school must be new money. School's funding was to come from fundraising and school budget, however the new money would amount to less than the 50% requirement.
Sunnyhill Infants	New security door & internal doors	£4,500	£4,500	£9,000	Normanton	Where the project does not support guidance priorities, 50% of the balance provided by the school must be new money. School's funding was to come from fundraising and school budget, however the new money would amount to less than the 50% requirement.
Wren Park	Creation of larger Library facility within school. Making adaptations to PE/Art store.	£45,000	£45,000	£90,000	Littleover	Where the project does not support guidance priorities, 50% of the balance provided by the school must be new money. School's funding was to come from devolved capital and school budget, however the new money would amount to less than the 50% requirement.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£66,973</b>				Scheme does not fulfil criteria to expand successful school.

## APPENDIX 4

### Proposed Voluntary Aided Projects 2004-2005

VA Schools	Details of Project	Est. Cost of Project	Ward	Quarter
<b>Church of England Diocese</b>				
<b>Primary</b>				
Walter Evans C of E Primary	Additional classroom and internal remodelling. Net Capacity measurement shows shortfall in teaching accommodation.	£150,000	Darley	1Q04
<b>Catholic Diocese</b>				
<b>Primary</b>				
St Albans Catholic Primary	Rewire phase 2.	£58,500	Chaddesden	1Q04
St Josephs Catholic Primary	Window replacement project phase 1.	£36,000	Arboretum	1Q04
<b>Secondary</b>				
St Benedict Catholic School and Performing Arts College	Significant works to fire alarm system – health and safety issue.	£40,000	Darley	1Q04
	<b>Est. Total cost of projects:</b>	<b>£284,500</b>		
	<b>Funding Available:</b>	<b>£288,650</b>		
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>£4,150</b>		

## APPENDIX 5

### Schools Access Initiative Projects 04/05

DfES No	School	Details of Projects – Phase 3			Amount of SAI Funding	Ward	Quarter
<b>Primary</b>							
2457	Gayton Community Junior	School project to replace the corridor. Contribution to project as school will be completely accessible when complete. School will fund remainder of balance from devolved funding, lettings income and Seed funding.	£ 130,000	£ 6,000	Blagreaves	Q2/04	
2459	Wren Park Primary	Ramps into main school and reception class. Extension at front of building to incorporate disabled toilet. Platform lift on library steps and reposition fire doors.	£ 57,474	£ 57,474	Littleover	Q2/04	
<b>Secondary</b>							
5402	Chellaston	School project to improve school entrance and to make whole school accessible by installing lift to access entrance area and library. Total cost of the scheme £240,000. LEA contribution to project of £61,325 of which £13,360 to come from S106.	£240,000	£ 47,965	Chellaston	Q1/04	
<b>Various Schools</b>							
	Various Schools	Equipment and minor alterations for specific needs of disabled pupils to improve access to the curriculum. To be co-ordinated by the Special Educational Needs Service.		£50,000			
		<b>Total</b>		<b>£161,439</b>			
		<b>Funding available</b>		<b>£427,760</b>			
		<b>Unallocated funding</b>		<b>£266,321</b>			