

**COUNCIL CABINET
11 JUNE 2002**

SEED CHALLENGE CAPITAL GRANT 2002/03

Report of the Director of Education

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council has been allocated a Seed Challenge Capital grant of £306,905 for 2002/03 (paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2).
- 1.2 Seed Challenge Funding is to be used for school building repairs and improvement on the basis of “levering” in external funding from sponsors, parents or other partners (paragraph 4.3).
- 1.3 The report indicates the basis of the funding and the requirement for schools to match fund projects. The report outlines the process for agreeing applications received from schools (paragraphs 4.3 and 4.5).
- 1.4 Proposed projects have initially been prioritised by a representative team consisting of a headteacher, surveyor and buildings / finance officers from the Education Service (paragraph 4.5).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree proposed projects shown in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Director of Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning, to agree further Seed Challenge projects using the balance of unallocated funding in 2002/03.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The projects proposed by schools are in line with the requirements of the grant. Schools have confirmed they are able to match fund from external funds as required.
- 3.2 Projects need to be approved as soon as possible as funding needs to be used by March 2003.
- 3.3 Projects using the balance of unallocated funding will need to be agreed as soon as possible in order to maximise use of the grant available by March 2003.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 The purpose of this grant is to provide schools with access to funds for curriculum-related buildings projects, with an emphasis on reducing the backlog of buildings repairs. The Council has been allocated a grant of £306,905 towards projects and the grant must be used in the financial year 2002/03.
- 4.2 This is the third year of this type of funding and the DfES has indicated the provisional level of future years' funding will be in the region of £300,000 in 2003/04.
- 4.3 A requirement of the grant is that it should be allocated on the basis of a contribution 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 DfES guidance indicates that schools must use private sector sponsorship or general fund-raising activities to meet their contribution and may only use a small percentage of their budget or other grant income.
- 4.4 The proposed projects for 2002/03 are shown in Appendix 1. There is a balance of un-allocated funding of £153,255. All schools have been invited to submit further projects by 10 June 2002 in order to maximise use of the grant and use the un-allocated funding. Although this grant has been effectively used in Derby, it is difficult for schools to match-fund projects from external funding. The Director has made the point to the DfES that this form of bidding will not apply equally to all schools and questioned whether there might be any change in the approach in future. It is intended to reiterate this point in a forthcoming meeting with officers of the DfES in June, although it should be noted that the DfES has already indicated that the criteria for Seed Challenge are to be reviewed for 2003/2004.
- 4.5 The Council has set up a team to consider and prioritise applications. The team includes a headteacher, surveyor and buildings / finance officers from the Education Service to consider projects and assess applications. As well as ensuring appropriate involvement in the process, this also meets the DfES expectation of transparency in assessing school applications.
- 4.6 Current DfES guidance is that the grant can only be claimed for costs incurred to the end of a particular financial year. As a result, an early response to schools' proposed projects becomes important. It is therefore recommended that future projects from the balance of unallocated funding should be agreed by the Director of Education in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The funding is on a grant basis: Seed Challenge Capital Grant of £306,905 has been allocated to the Council for 2002/03. The school

contribution must, in the main, come from non-statutory sources, though up to 25% of the school's contribution can come from their delegated revenue budget or devolved formula capital allocation.

- 5.2 The DfES has indicated that Seed Challenge Funding will continue in future years. The Council has received a provisional allocation of £306,905 for 2003/04.
- 5.3 The Council 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.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Some projects may require planning and building control approval.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None arising directly from this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Work will be completed to meet current standards and will enhance the environment of the schools concerned.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None arising directly from this report, although projects where there is potential for enhancing access for disabled pupils will be considered closely.

Background papers: None

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Proposed Seed Challenge Projects – 2002/03

School	Project Details	Seed funding requested	School Contribution	Total Cost of Project
Nursery				
Central Nursery	Refurbish sensory garden, including gateway, extension of paved areas	£2,500	£2,500	£5,000
Primary Schools				
Arboretum Primary	Provide verandas to create shaded outdoor classroom area with fixed seating	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000
Borrow Wood Infant	Create soft surface area, construct shed for storing curriculum equipment	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000
Brackensdale Junior	Improve playground facilities including playground marking, provision of shaded area and fixed seating	£3,500	£3,500	£7,000
Chellaston Junior	Upgrade wiring including lighting, electrical fittings and ceiling electrical panels to comply with regulations	£12,500	£12,500	£25,000
Dale Primary	Improve external play area, including providing an external wall and hard surface play area	£9,000	£9,000	£18,000
Gayton Junior	Replace corridor, rotten window frames, concrete slab floor and roof and gutters	£18,000	£18,000	£36,000
Lawn Primary	Provide quiet play area to support curriculum	£2,142	£2,142	£4,284
Parkview Primary	Develop outdoor play area, provide additional play surface	£15,000	£15,000	£30,000
Portway Junior	Two class extension with cloakroom	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
Redwood Junior	Extend playground tarmac, level up slabs, fence around pond,	£7,093	£7,094	£14,187
Shelton Infants	Replace fire door, replace hall windows with double glazing, replace corridor and staff room windows	£3,055	£3,055	£6,110
St George's CE Prim	Phase 2 of security fencing	£10,000	£10,000	£20,000
Special Schools				
St Giles	Construct canopy for all-weather activities to support Foundation stage	£3,000	£3,000	£6,000
Secondary Schools				
Noel-Baker Community	Refurbish science laboratory, including new floor and suspended ceiling, new lighting, and gas and water supplies	£13,860	£28,140	£42,000
Total		£153,650	£167,931	£321,581
Total 2002-2003 Funding Available:		£306,905		
Balance of un-allocated funding:		£153,255		

