

AGENDA ITEM: 4

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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	29 March 2005
Subject	Proposed Department for Education and Skills Targeted Capital Fund bid for the establishment of a new Jewish Voluntary Aided Secondary School and the rebuild of East Barnet Secondary School
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Summary	<p>This report seeks approval to consult the Barnet Schools Organisation Committee for the establishment of a new Jewish VA Secondary School.</p> <p>The report also seeks approval for a joint, linked, bid to the DfES 2006-8 Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) by the LEA and sponsors of the new Jewish School, for the full capital cost of the new Jewish School and for the consolidation and rebuilding of East Barnet Secondary School on its existing Chestnut Grove site. This would then free its existing Westbrook Crescent site for use by the new Jewish School.</p>

Officer Contributors	Head of Asset Management – Education Service
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	East Barnet
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Executive Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A
Contact for further information:	Head of Asset Management, Education Service

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the proposed establishment of a new Jewish Voluntary Aided Secondary School be referred to the Barnet Schools Organisation Committee for consultation.**
- 1.2 That a joint bid be made by JCoSS and the LEA to the DfES, under the latter's 2006-8 Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) bidding round, for the full capital cost of construction of the proposed Jewish V.A. Secondary School on the current East Barnet Secondary School site at Westbrook Crescent.**
- 1.3 That a linked bid be made to the DfES under the same TCF bidding round, for the full capital cost of consolidation and rebuilding of East Barnet Secondary School on its existing Chestnut Grove site.**
- 1.4 That officers report back to Cabinet Resources Committee on the outcome of the bid for approval of these two schemes prior to them being included in the Council's capital programme.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Providing a first class education service is a Council priority. This is implemented through the Education Service Performance Management Plan objective of improving the learning environment for all children. This bid is intended to replace all existing accommodation at East Barnet School which the LEA's Asset Management Plan assesses as in poor condition and which is deemed less than suitable for delivering the contemporary curriculum. The linked bid provides for the establishment of an additional Voluntary Aided Jewish Secondary School within the Borough.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 This proposal would proceed only on the basis of the award of DfES Targeted Capital Funding which fully funded the construction of both schools. In the event that the JCoSS bid was successful but the East Barnet bid failed, the Westbrook Crescent site could not be made available to JCoSS. Likewise the re-building of East Barnet School is likely to be contingent on the sale or lease of part of the existing East Barnet Upper School site to JCoSS, in line with the Council's usual disposal procedures.
- 4.2 The proposals are subject to the grant of planning approval for the proposed developments at both sites.
- 4.3 Where a project such as JCoSS involves Statutory Proposals which have not been published or approved, the DfES will consider a provisional allocation for the project only where there is clear commitment from the LEA or promoters to publish the proposals by the end of May 2006. If, following a provisional allocation having been made, the Statutory Proposals have not been published by that date, or having been published, are not agreed by November 2006, funding for the project may be withdrawn. This sets a clear timetable for gaining the agreement of the School Organisation Committee.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is no financial risk to the Council from this proposal as it would only proceed on the basis of the award of DfES Targeted Capital funding which fully funded the construction of both schools.
- 5.2 The proposed JCoSS development at Westbrook Crescent is dependant on the Council's sale or lease of part of the existing East Barnet Upper School site to JCoSS.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 The Council owns the land freehold and there is nothing in the title to prevent the proposed development.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Constitution Part 3, section 3: Responsibilities of the Executive – powers of the Cabinet Resources Committee.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 JCoSS is a constituent of the Jewish Community Day Schools Advisory Board. They wish to sponsor the establishment of a Jewish Voluntary Aided Secondary School in Barnet. Their proposal is for :
- a Voluntary Aided school for pupils aged 11-19;
 - admissions criteria which give priority to children of Jewish faith;
 - admissions criteria which include proximity to the school, which would encourage Barnet children to attend;
 - an inclusive school providing for children with a range of special education need within a mainstream setting, including specialist provision for pupils with profound and complex needs, in partnership with Norwood.
- 8.2 East Barnet Secondary School occupies buildings on the Chestnut Grove site for the lower school, with the upper school occupying premises at Westbrook Crescent. The LEA's Asset Management Plan identifies premises at both sites as being in poor condition, and significantly impeding the school's ability to deliver curriculum. The LEA had proposed the re-building of this school, on one site, as an early priority in Barnet's bid for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding. In late November, Barnet was notified that it would not be included in BSF until 2016 with the "ambition" that the DfES would commit funding to **one** project by 2011.
- 8.3 Discussions between representatives of JCoSS, the LEA and DfES on the issue of possible funding for both the proposed new Jewish VA Secondary School and the rebuilding of East Barnet Secondary School identified the potential benefits of linking these developments.
- 8.4 On 25th February 2005, the DfES issued guidance for the 2006-08 Targeted Capital Fund national bidding round. This guidance specifically identifies two sets of criteria for bids which relate directly to the proposals contained in this report. These are;
- 8.4.1 "Arrangements for targeting funds to local authorities in the latter part of Building Schools for the Future, and not eligible for an Academy, so that they can address their school with the highest building need". (East Barnet Secondary School Rebuild)

8.4.2 “New V.A. Schools wishing to apply for funding to establish a school under section 28 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, in the interests of increasing diversity”. (New Jewish VA Secondary School)

8.5 The guidance also expressly allows for linkage between LEA and VA proposals within a single authority and requires that all such bids are submitted by the LEA. Projects in these two categories do not require capital contributions by the LEA or Sponsor.

8.6 Bids, must be submitted to the DfES by **29th April 2005**. Announcement of the outcome of this bidding round is expected during summer of 2005. In the meantime the Local Authority must consult the School Organisation Committee on the JCoSS proposal. In the event of the Borough’s bids being successful, Cabinet Resources committee would be asked to agree these two projects being included in the Council’s Approved Capital Programme.

8.7 If successful, it would be hoped to complete the construction of both new projects in time for occupation in September 2008.

8.8 In the interim the LEA will continue discussions with other community and faith groups who are considering proposals for V.A. schools.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.