

CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF EARLY YEARS CAPITAL FUNDING

Introduction

At its meeting on 12 March 2015 the Schools Funding Forum agreed to endorse the application to the Secretary of State to dis-apply the regulations to allow this Local Authority to increase its centrally-retained capital funding by up to £1 million from the revenue account within DSG, in order to support the establishment of new nursery provisions and the expansion of existing nurseries on school sites, including where schools are also being proposed for expansion as a result of the rising numbers of Primary aged pupils – Draft Minute 86 (i)

The Forum also noted that that if the application is successful, detailed criteria for prioritising the use of this funding will be developed and reported to the Forum – Draft Minute 86 (ii).

Confirmation has been received that this request has been approved. The criteria for the use of this funding have been developed and are given below for the information of the Forum.

Priorities for Allocation of Funding

The funding will be allocated to meet Early Years and Childcare place pressures as identified in the 2014/15 Childcare Sufficiency Report in the following Primary Planning Areas:

- Collier Row
- Harold Hill
- Hornchurch
- Rainham and South Hornchurch
- Romford
- Upminster and Cranham

All primary schools and secondary schools with nursery provision in these areas will be invited to make submissions expanding or creating Early Years and Childcare provision on their sites, including where an existing Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) Provider may need to be re-located as a result of a school expansion/bulge.

Schools will be requested to outline their proposed Early Years and Childcare delivery model e.g. Maintained Provision, Governor Led Provision, PVI Provider or a Partnership between the School and a PVI Provider/Childminder; together with the proposed number of children to be catered for. Schools will also be asked to state if they can make a contribution to the revenue set-up costs of the Provision

Schools will also be requested to confirm that they can meet the detailed criteria for allocation of funding and where appropriate how they will do this. A pro-forma will be included in the Application Pack, together with a Guide to Setting-up Early Years and Childcare Provision and a copy of this is attached.

Detailed Criteria for Allocation of Funding

A) Application Criteria to be met by Schools

- Available site area for the Provision
- Early Years and Childcare Provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This is a condition of the agreement to capitalise
- Availability of the Provision from 8 am to 6 pm. This is also a condition of the agreement to capitalise. This Provision can include a Breakfast/After School Club. If a school wished to deliver the Provision during normal school hours only, a partnership could be formed with a PVI Provider/Childminder to deliver extended provision. A number of DfE Case Studies on options for delivery will be included in the Application Pack. Some Havering Primary Schools have been involved in the London 8 am to 6 pm Pilot Project and information from this will also be included
- Demonstrated demand e.g. a parental survey
- School Holiday Opening, subject to demand. Whilst this may not be practical for all schools this will be a priority for funding allocation
- Demonstrated sustainability e.g. a Business Plan or Cash Flow Statement
- The school will provide the provision in existing accommodation i.e. caretaker's house, Children's Centre, or using existing site area for example the playing field

B) Local Authority Approval Criteria

In addition to ensuring that applications meet the above criteria, the Local Authority will also take into account:

- Feasibility of Site and Size
- Estimated Cost of the proposal
- Contribution the school is able to make to revenue set-up costs
- The School's Ofsted Inspection Judgement is Good or Outstanding
- The likelihood of obtaining Planning Permission and obtaining approval to build on the school playing field, if appropriate
- Whether the school is planned for expansion/bulge - nursery provision is in school's accommodation and the school needs the accommodation to meet the increase in demand for school places. Relocation of the nursery provision will be a priority.
- Likely timescale for project delivery, including statutory processes if a Maintained Provision is proposed

Next Steps

All Primary Schools and Secondary Schools with on-site nursery provision in the above Planning Areas will be invited to make an expression of interest for funding. Expressions of interest will need to be returned by 31 July 2015. These will be evaluated and applicant schools will be notified of the outcome by November 2015. These outcomes will also be reported to this Forum.

Recommendations

The Schools Funding Forum is recommended to note:

- (i) The Criteria and process for inviting expressions of interest for capital funding for new/expanded Early Years and Childcare Provision
- (ii) That the outcome of applications will be notified to the Forum in due course