

# **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

## **WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 24 JUNE 2009**

### **TARGETED CAPITAL FOR SCHOOL KITCHENS AND DINING FACILITIES**

#### **1.Introduction**

In 2008 DCSF announced that an additional £100 million was to be made available to Authorities for improvements to school kitchens and dining facilities. The aim of this investment is to increase the take up of school meals through a whole range of local initiatives.

All authorities were asked to submit an Expression of Interest in December 2008 followed by a formal bid in March 2009. Prior to this submission Schools Forum was made aware of the content of this bid at the meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 (minute 23).

#### **2.Targeted Capital Allocation**

DCSF Standards Fund has been offered to all Authorities on a 50% match funding basis. Due to the huge response to this initiative Authorities could only be offered approximately 50% of the amount they requested in March. As a result of this reduction in allocation Authorities have been asked to share revised project plans with its Schools Forum. Whilst it is acknowledged that there will have to be some changes to the planned projects, the emphasis must remain on the implementation of those projects which will result in the greatest impact on school lunch take up. The grant being made available to Wirral is £454,316 and will be payable over two financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11. Wirral is able to meet the required 50% match funding via CYPD Modernisation allocations, Devolved Formula Capital contributions and centrally held equipment and furniture budgets.

#### **3.Revised Plans for School Kitchens and Dining Facilities**

A table has been produced to illustrate proposed changes to planned projects. Whilst a significant number of the initial projects have been retained there has had to be a greater emphasis on kitchen refurbishment to meet gas safety regulations and the associated building works.

All proposed projects have been designed to meet one or more of the following goals:

1. Improve the quality of food
2. Increasing the seating capacity of dining areas
3. Improving the dining environment
4. decreasing queuing time

5. The one change from the position reported in January is that the 50% allocation does not provide sufficient funding to replace the HORSAs unit at Overchurch Infant School. Alternative capital funding sources will be explored in respect of this scheme.

#### **4.Recommendations**

The Forum is asked to approve the changes in the planned projects in order to increase the lunch take up in schools.

**Howard Cooper**  
**Director of Childrens Services**

Project	Original Bid	Revised Bid	Project Narrative
Training Kitchen (to be created from an existing facility)	£25,000	£25,000	This will allow staff training in a designated and suitable learning environment. To further enhance the quality of food being produced.
HORSA Kitchen replacement	£400,000	£0	This project will be met from the main CYPD Capital Programme. £400,000 allocated in 2009/10. Only one HORSA remains to be replaced at Overchurch Infant School, anticipated date 2010/11.
Purchase of Dining Furniture	£50,000	£25,000	This amount will be match funded from Metro Catering furniture budget. Allocation will be made from existing knowledge of furniture quality and suitability.
Installation of new Counters and Serveries	£75,000	£0	13 new counters were installed in 2008/09, due to the cost of associated building works this element will be addressed via general refurbishment projects (see below).
External Dining Redecoration	£50,000 £50,000	£75,000	Schools will be asked to bid for this element of funding on a 50:50 basis using Devolved Formula Capital. Schools will be offered advice for drawing up specifications to required EHO and other standards.
Pilot Cashless System	£10,000	£10,000	Metro Catering to undertake pilot scheme in a large Primary school.
Signage	£50,000	£0	Due to the on-going development of menus tailored to schools' requests and to comply with Nutrient based Standards, this will be addressed at a later date and through marketing initiatives.
Marketing Initiatives	£0	£25,000	To be linked to changes in menus, theme days, parental involvement, nutritional awareness raising, menu promotions, links to Health initiatives etc.
Increasing Dining Space at Upton Hall School	£100,000	£50,000	Project to address severe shortage of space for dining, school to meet match funding via Devolved Formula Capital.
Additional space	£75,000	£0	Schools experiencing problems will be asked to submit their proposals; provision to be looked at within future CYPD Capital Programmes.
Kitchen ventilation and extraction and associated refurbishment projects	£0	£244,316	This project has been included due to legislative requirements which if not complied with, would result in the closure of kitchens. These large projects will be prioritised and will require school DFC contributions. £125,000 has already been committed from council health and safety allocations.