

Guidance on Funding for Building Work.

Scenario 1: I have a building problem.

Question: *About how much will it cost to put right?*

Answer A: If it is less than £2000 I will have to pay for all of this out of my school budget.

Question: *Do I have to get anyone's permission if it costs less than £2000?*

Answer: All building issues are the responsibility of the Governing Body. Do you need to "inform" the right committee or do you need to get the agreement of the chair of the committee will probably depend on the remit of the head and the committee.

Answer B: If it costs more than £2000 and is the Governors' responsibility (it almost certainly will be, the exceptions are things like MI room, loose furniture and equipment etc.), I will be able to get grant to pay for it through my Devolved Formula Capital (DFC).

Question: *Do I have to get anyone's permission?*

Answer: As in Answer A and then the DfES will have to agree to the proposal, they have their own forms to be completed. I will have to ask the Diocese, through Fr. Bulfin, as the building actually belongs to the Trustees and they have their own form. (This is a necessary formality in order to keep our records up to date. The only time permission would be refused is if the proposal was contrary to supporting the network of Catholic schools). I should also copy the submission (done by your consultant) to the LEA for information.

Question. *What does grant mean?*

Answer: The DfES will meet 90% of the costs.

Question. *What is DFC?*

Answer: It is an amount of money allocated to the school on an annual basis to meet the cost of building work at this level. The rules about what this money can be spent on are varied each year. For example in 2003/2004, and for that year only, it was possible to use some of this funding to address salary costs. For 2004/2005 it is proposed that it can be used for certain ICT purchases.

This money does not need to be spent in the year that it is allocated but must be spent within 3 years. You can add together the amounts from 3 years to give yourself a significant spend.

Care needs to be taken with this money since spending it on “extras” when there are Health and Safety or Condition issues may be appealing but where will you get the funding to address these H&S/Condition issues?

Question. *How do I access the DFC?*

Answer: Complete the DfES forms. If you are not sure which forms or how to complete them, just phone Darlington and ask for the VA team. Remember that if you are employing a consultant he should be doing this work.

Question. *If DFC gets me 90% where does the other 10% come from?*

Answer: Out of the school monies because it is the Governors' responsibility to find the 10%.

Answer C: If it costs more than I can afford through my DFC, I may be able to get top up grant from the LEA Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP).

Question. *How do I access this fund?*

Answer: Get a bid to the Diocese on their form when it comes out in the Autumn term. This bid will then be considered along with any others from within your authority. The LEA and the Diocese will prioritise the bids in order of need alongside bids from other VA stakeholders.

Question. *What sort of figure are we talking about?*

Answer. More than £10,000 and up to possibly £150,000 over two years would be realistic. However smaller sums can be arranged to support DFC for example.

Question. *Who in the Diocese decides on the priorities ?*

Answer. There is an independent group who are responsible for the Joint School Building Fund Project. Part of their responsibility is to agree the priorities irrespective of how the 10% is met.

Question. *Where do I get the 10% for the LCVAP element of projects?*

Answer. If I am in the Joint School Building Fund Project I get the full 10% paid. If I am not in this fund it will be the Governors' responsibility to find the money.

Question. *Am I restricted in access to LCVAP if I have already spent my DFC on other projects?*

Answer. No.

Scenario 2: I have a building development plan.

I have a consultant who will get paid through the fee process attached to any successful bid. I can therefore expect that the consultant would prioritise the work, complete the bids and do the grant claiming for us.

Scenario 3: I have a development plan in my head.

Question. *How do I get a consultant?*

Answer. Your school may have an architect who has been involved with the school in the past. If you are happy with his/her work then you just contact them to develop the plan.

If you are not happy with the architect ask your colleague head teachers for suggestions or ask Martin Lochery at the Diocese for a list of names of people who could be expected to deliver.

Question. *I have a consultant but no plan, what do I do now?*

Answer. Ask your consultant to create a building plan based on the Asset Management Plan and also the wish list, however "out of the box" things might seem. When it has been drafted ask to see John Corrigan from the Diocese to review the plan so that it can be tweaked, if necessary, before going to the Governors. Once adopted by the Governors a copy of the completed plan should be sent to John Corrigan for Diocesan information.