

Premises Board Meeting on Friday., March 20th 2002

Phil Norrey was in the Chair and the meeting was attended by members of the County Property Team, Diocesan Representatives, DAPH, DASH, DAG, SHAD, Bursars and Councillor John Hart.

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Asset Management Plan Update
3. Capital Programme Update
4. Best value
5. Recurrent and Strategic Maintenance
6. Disabled Access Revenue Budget
7. Liabilities and Funding at VA Schools
8. AOB

Main issues that arose were as follows:

Asset Management Plan Update

- Considered proposed allocation of Modernisation Fund which is to be linked to Suitability and Condition factors – details to be with schools soon.
- Proposed that there should be additional primary and secondary Head teacher representation on Premises board – need another Primary Head preferably from a small school. (Any volunteers on your DAPH list?)
- Also flagged up new method of measuring school's capacity is being introduced by DfES in June 2002 – Net Capacity. This will be calculated by the number and size of “class bases”.

Capital Programme Update

- Latest information on capital programme and Devon's success in drawing down substantial funds. Over £30 million being spent on 35 primary, 24 secondary and 1 special school. Detailed capital programme being presented to Executive Committee on the 19th March.
- NDS Modernisation Fund – new stream of funding to target suitability issues as set out in AMPs, Health and Safety and Disabled Access priorities. £0.4 million being set aside as Jubilee Fund for schools to bid for like Seed Challenge but there will not be the need to find matched funds.
- Classroom of the Future – design work progressing and virtual visualisations to be posted on the Devon web.

Best value

- Property Function Best Value Inspection Update – inspection highlighted strengths and weaknesses. Issues that needed to be addressed were the poor state of many council buildings, low level of disabled access to council buildings, the need to get better value for money by the way the council engages with the private sector and buys outside services.

Recurrent and Strategic Maintenance

- Update given on PROMISE and MUMIS 2001/02
- PROMISE/MUMIS Mk3 2002/03 – outcomes of meeting were discussed and the decision not to introduce any changes this year linked to condition. I raised the issue of the short notice about this meeting and raised the need to consult earlier if changes were planned for next year. Emphasised commitment to spending 70% or more of school's subscription to fund at their premises over the three year period of the indemnity scheme. However, pointed out this would not necessarily see all Priority 1 issues being done.
- Any one not subscribing to PROMISE has to subscribe MUMIS and this being top sliced to ensure all pay.

Disabled Access Revenue Budget

- Board agreed to the recommendation that schools should contribute 20% up to a maximum of £2000 to disabled access revenue projects. Consideration will be given to smaller primary schools who have to provide extensive costly facilities for a child with disabilities. The bottom line was that there is little money and most of this is out in schools.

Liabilities and Funding at VA Schools

- Changes being considered by DfES to the liabilities and funding of premises work in VA schools. The objective of these changes is to provide schools with a simple and consistent process when carrying out revenue and capital building projects. Approval expected by April 2002.

Date of Next Meeting: 29th June 2 p.m. County Hall.

I can't make this as I will be away on Field Trip with our Y6 perhaps our new member will be able to attend?

I hope this all makes sense.

Please circulate to the rest of the Steering Group and elsewhere as appropriate.

Brian