

School Organisation Forum

NPS South West Limited

Report to School Organisation Forum 24th February 2010

1.0 Update Devon Maintenance Partnership 2008/09 – 2009/10

1.1 Financial Position

At M10 the financial position is satisfactory and remains without any major issues in terms of the servicing elements or the survey work by NPS. The works budget is currently 87% committed (86% at last SOF meeting)

1.2 Service Term Contracts

Servicing contracts are all ongoing and whilst there have been minor issues with school heating systems during the winter weather, operational disruptions have been kept to a minimum to those schools serviced by the DMP Agreement.

Both NPS and Contractors were stretched during the recent cold and snow conditions although continuity of service was maintained.

The Beale and Cole, boiler contract is about 4 weeks behind schedule with some servicing having to be completed in April 2010.

The current servicing contractors will be retained to undertake their contracts in 2010/11 where permitted under the various contracts.

There will be a review shortly of the kitchen extract fans and canopies contract to see if it is possible to extend it for a further year.

DCC applied successfully for a Tender Exemption to negotiate with Beale and Cole to undertake the gas soundness testing for schools and also the corporate estate and it is anticipated that these negotiations will be concluded in time for the start of the new DMP Agreement.

Competitive tenders will be invited in late February for the Lightning Protection System testing/risk assessments for schools and again it is anticipated that a contract will be in place in time for the start of the new DMP Agreement.

1.3 MUMIS

There is one new MUMIS claim at Bearnas Primary School, Newton Abbot since the last report. The list of agreed MUMIS Claims for 2009/10 is

- Sutcombe Primary School – Drainage works - £40,000 (previously reported)
- Parracombe Cof E Primary – Dry Rot - £4,500 (previously reported)
- Holbeton Primary School – Dry Rot - £20,000 (previously reported)
- North Molton Primary School – Boilers - £18,000 (previously reported)

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- The Grove Primary School – Heaters - £16,000 (previously reported)
- Bearnese Primary School – Heaters - £5,000

Schools' contributions were taken for 2009/10 and the MUMIS fund was approximately £400,000 at the start of the 2009 financial year.

1.4 Devon Maintenance Partnership 2010 -2015 Agreement

As agreed at the last SOF meeting details of the new Agreement were sent to all non VA schools on 28th January 2010 via the central mailing system from CYPS.

A returns form confirming the school's intention is required to be sent back to NPS by Friday 26th February 2010. As of 11th February, 136 returns have been received of which 120 are positive (88%).

A further update will be provided at the SOF meeting.

Unfortunately, there was an error in the letter sent to schools by CYPS on behalf of NPS. The error related to the use of the word "repair" in the context of lifts and boiler plant. The error was in the letter only, the Agreement is correct and it is clear that repairs are not included as part of the Agreement.

This matter will be corrected on 12th February 2010 when a letter will be sent by NPS to all schools clarifying the position and apologising for the error and confusion caused.

NPS will chase those schools who have not returned their forms by Friday 26th February 2010 in an attempt to achieve a 100% return.

SOF need to agree what to do in the circumstance that NPS cannot get a response from schools as was the case with the current Agreement.

In the current scheme, NPS were instructed by CYPS to exclude non-responding secondary schools but include non-responding primary and special schools

Action – Agreement is needed from SOF about how to treat schools that do not respond after chasing by NPS by, say, Friday 19th March 2010

The optional "pay as you use" service" is being developed and should be complete by mid March 2010 ready for the new Agreement.

1.5 Safeguarding

Following the report of Sir Roger Singleton, DCC has issued revised guidance to contractors on the PCD to reflect the revised criteria around the frequency of visits and also the changed criteria confirming that the revised frequencies relate to single establishments. This is a significant change and will affect many contractors.

A copy of the letter is attached to this report.

1.6 Property Contracting Database (PCD)

DCC have instructed that a number of companies be temporarily suspended due to concerns about their financial status. Contractors who are in this position are flagged as such on the Property Contracting Database.

Reinstatement will be based on an instruction after the companies accounts have been reviewed as being acceptable by DCC

1.7 Feasibility Studies for DFC Projects

In January 2010, NPS wrote to all schools offering 3 hours free feasibility time to assist them in developing projects both minor improvements and maintenance funded from their DFC. To date, in excess of 20 enquiries have been received.

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