

Decision Maker: **Children and Young People Portfolio Holder**

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 21 February 2012**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**TITLE: THE BROMLEY SEED CHALLENGE SCHEME**

Contact Officer: Robert Bollen, CYP Strategic Property Manager  
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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: Boroughwide

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed allocation of £300,000 that is available with the Council's Capital Programme through the Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme to deal with priority premises at Bromley Schools
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **That the Executive Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People approve the list of schemes set out in Appendix 1 to this report.**
- 2.2 **That £76,829 be made available from the Council's School Security programme, to provide match funding support for school submissions dealing with security issues.**
- 2.3 **That the Director of Children and Young People Services be authorised, where appropriate, to submit planning applications in respect of the schemes set out in this report.**

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost £387,422
  2. Ongoing costs: Non-recurring cost
  3. Budget head/performance centre:
  4. Total current budget for this head: £300,000 Seed Challenge  
£150,000 Security
  5. Source of funding: DfE Capital Maintenance Grant
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional) -
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours -
- 

### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance: The Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2012
  2. Call in: Call-in is applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) - 10,000 (total of pupils in schools affected)
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 On 15 March 2011 the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder approved an allocation of £300,000 to fund a new round of the Bromley Seed Challenge programme for 2011-12. In addition an allocation of £150,000 was made to support security and health and safety improvements at schools. Both these programmes are fully funded by Department for Education Capital Maintenance Grant.
- 3.2 As DfE Capital Maintenance Grant is allocated by Government to be used only on improvements at local authority maintained schools, applications for the Seed Challenge programme were not sought from Academy Schools this year.
- 3.3 The Bromley Seed Challenge Programme replaced the Government's Seed Challenge Initiative that was in place from 2000 to 2005. The significant feature of the programme is the requirement for schools to provide match funding, providing them with an opportunity to bring forward schemes that benefit the school whilst engendering a genuine sense of shared responsibility and partnership.
- 3.4 The rules that will operate for Bromley's Seed Challenge scheme are as follows:
- Primary and special schools can receive a maximum grant of up to 50% of the total cost of a project.
  - Secondary schools can receive a maximum grant of up to 34% of the total cost of a project.
  - The minimum size of project to be considered for support will be £5,000.
  - The maximum size of scheme to be supported will be £100,000. Therefore the maximum grant available would be £50,000 to a primary or special school and £33,000 to a secondary school. In some circumstances consideration will be given to support a larger scheme, although the grant maxima would still apply. An example would be support for a scheme supported through a variety of funding means where Seed Challenge support would enable the scheme to progress.
  - Successful schools will be given until the end of December 2012 to complete works and claim match-funding contributions. Extensions will be considered in exceptional circumstances
- 3.5 As part of the 2011-12 programme, consideration was given to the impact the reduction in DfE Devolved Formula Grant to schools would have upon the programme and schools' ability to contribute towards improvements. In analyses of responses the majority of schools were able to make match-funding contributions in line with criteria set out in 3.4 above. On this basis all successful schemes will be awarded grant to a maximum level of 50% for primaries and 34% for secondaries.
- 3.6 Schools were asked to register expressions of interest. Expressions of interest have now been received and evaluated and a full list of submitted bids is set out in the Appendix 1 to this report. The total Seed Challenge support sought for each scheme amounts to £556,512.
- 3.7 In addition to £300,000 Seed Challenge grant, it is recommended that the Council's School Security programme is utilised to match fund successful submissions for security improvements. However, as set out above demand for support has outstripped the available grant and it has been necessary to undertake a prioritisation exercise to determine the schemes that should be supported.

3.8 The Director of Children and Young People Services met with the Head of Access and Admissions and the CYP Strategic Property Manager to review the submitted schemes. The following priority areas were used when assessing schemes:

- Urgent health and safety issues.
- Urgent security issues.
- Contribution to raising educational attainment.
- Level of support already received through recent rounds of Seed Challenge.

3.9 A full list of all schemes together with an indication of whether officers are recommending support is attached as the Appendix to this report. The total schemes supported will require Seed Challenge grant aid of £310,593 and Security grant aid of £76,829.

3.10 All schools featured on the lists will be asked to clarify their Governing Bodies position on Academy conversion before agreement to release the grant award is made, as those school in the process of converting will access direct capital grant from DfE on conversion. This will enable the LBB capital available as part of this method-funded initiative to be prioritised for Local Authority maintained schools.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme contributes to the Council's Building a Better Bromley : 2020 Vision. Progression of these schemes will assist in meeting two of the key outcomes within the CYP Portfolio Plan for 2011/12: 'Children and young people enjoy learning and achieve their full potential' in that the schemes will help children to attend and enjoy school and 'Children and young people are safe there they live, go to school, play and work' in that some schemes will improve health and safety in those schools.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Any application of grant monies received must be applied having due regard to any guidance published by DfE.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 This report makes recommendations on schemes that should be supported under the Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme. The total Seed Challenge allocation to support these schemes of £300,000 will be included within the Children and Young People Services Capital Programme. The proposed schemes to be supported will require Seed Challenge grant of £310,593. The small amount of over-programming of £10,593 will be contained through slippage on individual schemes. The £76,829 is available from existing security and health and safety budgets.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>School</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Seed Challenge Support Sought</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>	<b>Supported</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>
Alexandra Infant	New Sensory Room and equipment for autistic pupils plus SEN equipment for playground	£32,000	£16,000	£16,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Alexandra Junior	To improve provision of ICT by upgrade of current desktop PCs with laptops etc and conversion of current ICT room to classroom for Yr 5 (at present in mobile accommodation)	£45,400	£22,700	£0	Not supported	Although the scheme would benefit the school's learning environment, it did not score as highly as other submissions.
Bickley Primary	Supply and install automatic gate access for vehicles and pedestrians*	£15,554	£7,777*	£7,777*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.
Bromley Road Infants	Relocation of main entrance and admin offices	£5,379	£2,690*	£2,690*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.
Burnt Ash Primary	Creation of stage/theatre in KS hall	£10,000	£5,000	£5,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Castlecombe Primary	Creation of x2 additional teaching spaces	£6,950	£3,475	£3,475	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Clare House Primary	Provision of additional portable classroom to accommodate 'Forest School'	£40,354	£40,354	£0	Not Supported	School did not offer to make any contribution to scheme.
Chelsfield Primary	Creation of small multi use learning area/meeting room	£18,600	£9,300	£9,300	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Dorset Road Infant	Creation of small multi use learning area/staff PPA	£14,600	£7,300	£7,300	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Edgebury Primary	Refurbishment of main kitchen	£26,875	£21,375	£13,438	Supported	Scheme tackled significant H&S issues in relation to the provision of school catering. Support provided at 50% grant aid
Farnborough Primary	Supply and Install automatic gate access for vehicles and pedestrians plus additional fencing	£24,000	£12,000*	£12,000*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.

School	Scheme	Total Cost	Seed Challenge Support Sought	Grant Awarded	Supported	Reason for Recommendation
Hawes Down Schools	Installation of security barrier to main vehicle entrance and upgrade to CCTV in this area	£30,800	£15,400*	£15,400*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.
Highfield Junior	Extension to main hall providing small hall and only ramped, disabled access for main school	£130,000	£50,000	£50,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major health and safety and accessibility enhancement at the school. Award based on clarification of school status
Highfield Infants	Alterations and refurbishment to develop existing Foundation Stage area	£31,900	£28,710	£15,950	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances learning environment. Support provided at 50% grant aid
Holy Innocents	Remedial works following PIR carried out by LBB contractor	£15,041	£7,520	£0	Not supported	Although the scheme would address health and safety issues, these costs should be funded from LCVAP
James Dixon	Installation of sustainable built outdoor classroom	£8,000	£4,000	£4,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Keston Primary	Extension and refurbishments to improve security to the main entrance hall	£59,225	£29,613*	£29,613*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.
Leesons Primary	New provision for SEN and after school club as part of refurbishment	£50,000	£25,000	£25,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Manor Oak Primary	Refurbishment of Children's Centre internal layout to accommodate re-location of Nursery.	£70,000	£35,000	£35,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Malcolm Primary	Resurface main playground and re-laying of grassed area with artificial grass.	£19,000	£9,500	£9,500	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum and H&S enhancement at the school
Marian Vian Primary	Awnings to KS1 outside learning area	£14,058	£7,029	£7,029	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Midfield Primary	Improvement of pathways within school grounds to provide DDA compliant accessible routes.	£17,000	£8,500	£8,500	Supported	This scheme would provide a H&S and accessibility enhancement at the school

School	Scheme	Total Cost	Seed Challenge Support Sought	Grant Awarded	Supported	Reason for Recommendation
Midfield Primary	Creation of external outdoor learning area as recommended by Ofsted. Will create nature area including a Gazebo style learning structure	£15,200	£7,600	£0	Not supported	This scheme is s lesser priority than the scheme submitted by the School that is recommended under this Programme.
Mottingham Primary	Introduction of activity and creative play facility within existing playground  Reason: Low scoring submission due to previous successful submissions	£24,300	£12,150	£0	Not supported	Whilst this scheme would provide a worthwhile improvement, the scheme scores less highly as a result of the School's recent allocation under the programme
Oak Lodge Primary	Creation of outdoor learning area for Yr 1	£39,600	£19,800	£19,800	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Royston Primary	Resurface main playground following building project	£10,000	£5,000	£5,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum and health and safety enhancement at the school
Perry Hall Primary	Multi use activity/teaching zone to be located within the main playground with an all-weather canopy unit with a platform for use as external learning environment.	£17,500	£8,750	£8,750	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Perry Hall Primary	Dedicated adventure play equipment for KS1 to be installed in currently unusable grass bank areas.  Reason: Support recommended for alternative bid	£15,500	£7,750	£0	Not supported	This scheme is s lesser priority than the scheme submitted by the School that is recommended under this Programme.
The Priory	Refurbishment of main school hall	£48,000	£16,320	£0	Not supported	Whilst the scheme would provide a worthwhile improvement, it scores less highly against the criteria in 3.8 above
The Priory	Refurbishment of student toilets  Reason: Support recommended for alternative bid	£53,000	£18,020	£0	Not supported	Whilst the scheme would provide a worthwhile improvement, it does not score highly against the criteria in 3.8 above
Poverest Primary	Replacement of external doors	£12,000	£6,000	£6,000	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school

School	Scheme	Total Cost	Seed Challenge Support Sought	Grant Awarded	Supported	Reason for Recommendation
Red Hill Primary	Creation of a covered walkway between remote Yr 4 building and main school. Will double as outside learning facility	£29,800	£14,900	£14,900	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Southborough Primary	Creation of new KS1 playground area and improvements to access pathways to rear of school	£21,700	£10,850	£10,850	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Southborough Primary	Installation of wireless IT system to serve whole school  Reason: Low scoring submission/support recommended for alternative bid	£11,960	£5,980	£0	Not supported	This scheme is a lesser priority than the scheme submitted by the School that is recommended under this Programme.
St Mary Cray Primary	Refurbishment of Breakfast Club room	£6,600	£3,300	£3,300	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Unicorn Primary	Creation of outdoor learning area for Special Needs and extended community activities	£65,000	£32,500	£32,500	Supported	This scheme would provide a major curriculum enhancement at the school
Wickham Common Primary	Supply and Install automatic gate access for vehicles and pedestrians	£18,700	£9,350*	£9,350*	Supported	Scheme significantly enhances school security. Match-funded through School Security programme.
Wickham Common Primary	Introduction of dedicated activity play area for whole school within the under-used grassed areas  Reason: Support recommended for alternative bid	£20,000	£10,000	£0	Not supported	This scheme is a lesser priority than the scheme submitted by the School that is recommended under this Programme.
		£1,093,596	£556,512	£387,422		
			Seed Challenge	£310,593		
			Security*	£76,829		
			Total Grant	£387,422		