

Decision Maker: EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 27 January 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: BROMLEY SEED CHALLENGE SCHEME - 2014/15
ALLOCATION OF FUND

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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed allocation of £300,000 that is available through the Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme to support school led capital projects at Bromley Schools

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Executive Portfolio Holder for Education approves the list of schemes set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.2 That Members note the historical bidding patterns of Seed Challenge as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.3 That the Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services be authorised, where appropriate, to submit planning applications in respect of schemes set out within 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
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: £1,808,711
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,808,711
 5. Source of funding: DfE Capital Maintenance Grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All Local Authority Maintained and Voluntary Aided Schools
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 On 2 April 2014 the Executive approved an allocation of £300,000 to fund a new round of the Bromley Seed Challenge programme for 2014-15. The Seed Challenge Programme is fully funded by Department for Education Capital Maintenance Grant.
- 3.2 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. In line with local and national policy, Seed Challenge applications have been accepted from schools that convert to academy status in 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 April 2016 to complete works and claim match-funding contributions. Extensions will be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.5 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 the schemes amounts to £449,984.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 The submitted schemes have been reviewed with 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.
- 3.8 A full list of all schemes together with an indication of whether officers are recommending support is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The total schemes supported will require Seed Challenge grant aid of £293,786.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme contributes to the Council's Building a Better Bromley 2020 Vision through supporting children and young people to enjoy learning and achieve their potential.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report makes recommendations on schemes that should receive supported from the Bromley Seed Challenge Scheme. The total Seed Challenge allocation to support these schemes of £300,000 is included within the Capital Programme. The proposed schemes to be supported will require Seed Challenge grant of £293,786

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Gateway Review 0, 1 & 2 Approval of 2014/15 Education Building Maintenance Budgets, Education Planned Maintenance Programme and Preferred Procurement Options – Executive 2 April 2014