

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **14-19 UPDATE and CAPITAL FUNDING**

Date: 23 July 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

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Wards Affected: All Wards

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide members with an update on the 14-19 Partnership's development of Diplomas. The paper also seeks member approval for a proposal from a consortium of three schools and a theatre company for capital monies to develop facilities at the three schools to deliver the Creative and Media Diploma accessible to all students in the Royal Borough.
- 1.2 The Borough's 14-19 Partnership is committed to achieving an entitlement curriculum to 14 Diploma lines at Key Stage 4 and 17 lines at Post 16 by September 2013. Rigorous and detailed submissions for Diploma lines have been prepared by key staff across schools and colleges. These have been assessed by a sector-led Diploma Development Panel, which determines whether they are of sufficiently high quality to be fully approved. Appendix A outlines progress to date. The lines in bold are those Diplomas which have approval for delivery.
- 1.3 In order to support the delivery of the Diplomas and other vocational courses and qualifications, capital works are planned, from a DCSF grant of £8 million. £2 million of this is to be spent by August 2010 and £6 million by August 2011.
- 1.4 The consortium of providers prepared to deliver the Creative and Media Diploma has prepared a submission for capital funds of £1.5 million. This is to develop core facilities at three school sites across the borough: at Churchmead, the Windsor Boys' and Cox Green schools. This submission is attached as Appendix B.
- 1.5 In addition to the submission for the Creative and Media Diploma, three additional submissions for capital funds are being developed. One is from the consortium led by Windsor Boys to further develop the Skills Centre to enable delivery of Construction, Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Hairdressing. The second is from the consortium led by Charters School to develop facilities for the delivery of the Sports and Active Leisure Diploma. The third submission, led by Furze Platt school is to support the Retail, Business, Finance and IT Diplomas. These submissions, when further developed, will be subject to member approval at future Cabinet meetings.

2 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The progress made on developing Diplomas be noted**
- ii) **The proposal to allocate £1.5 million capital funding to develop facilities across three school sites to deliver the Creative and Media Diploma from September 2010 be approved, subject to reports back to Cabinet on specific schemes.**
- iii) **It be noted that further capital submissions are being developed to deliver the Construction, Sports and Active Leisure and Retail, Business, Finance and IT Diplomas each of which are likely to be similar quantum.**

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?

Young people will develop better skills needed by the economy, through access to an enhanced range of vocational provision that meets a national entitlement and is part of a broad and balanced 14-19 curriculum offer. They will have greater choice and diversity of provision. This enhanced choice and diversity will enable more young people to stay in learning and reduce the numbers who are NEET (not in education, employment or training). The strong links with industry and further and higher education offer routes for young people to continue to progress.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Royal Borough's plan for children and young people is to raise achievement for all and to narrow the gap in attainment between the majority of learners and those who are currently at risk of poor outcomes. We believe that all our young people have a contribution to make to the social and economic well-being of the area. We want to ensure all our young people are prepared for work in a changing world: a world where high levels of transferable skills will continue to be in demand.
- 3.2 Since 2005 there has been far-reaching reform of education for 14-19 year olds. A crucial plank of the reforms is the expansion of a broad and balanced curriculum, which delivers a wider range of vocational as well as academic courses and qualifications and which is accessible to all pupils, irrespective of ability. Vocational education is no longer seen as a "second class" activity. Level 3 Diplomas are equivalent to three A levels.
- 3.3 The reforms emphasise the overall strategic lead for Local Authorities for planning, commissioning and delivery of 14-19 education and training. This can best be achieved by working in partnership with other agencies and providers and with other local authorities and institutions to enable effective cross boundary provision. The Borough's 14-19 Partnership has representation from secondary schools, FE colleges, Connexions, the LSC, the Education-Business partnership and the local authority.

3.4 The DCSF document ‘Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps’ articulated a 14-19 entitlement to be in place by 2013 comprising four learning and progression pathways: *Apprenticeships, Diplomas, The Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) and General Qualifications (GCSEs and A levels)* The same document, supported by legislation in the Education and Skills Act 2008, raised the participation age for young people to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015, or until they have achieved a Level 3 qualification which ever is the sooner. Section 85 of the Education Act 2008 extends the local collaborative arrangements made under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 (co-operation to improve well-being) to cover arrangements to promote cooperation between the Children’s Services Authority and its partners and persons who are responsible for providing 14-19 education and training.

3.5 Creative and Media qualifications are popular, reflecting the burgeoning international media industry. September 2008 saw over 800 enrolments within this type of course across the three schools in the Creative and Media Partnership. Some students may take two or more courses.

Predicted enrolments for the Diploma for the first three years are as follows:

	2010 – 2011			2011 – 2012			2012 – 2013		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Jam Theatre Company	0	0	3	0	8	10	0	12	16
Windsor Boys’ School	0	6	2	10	16	6	12	18	8
Cox Green School	6	8	6	10	14	12	12	18	15
Churchmead School	3	4	3	10	10	6	12	12	8
	9	18	14	30	40	34	36	60	47

3.6 The table indicates predicted uptake of pupil numbers from the three schools within the partnership. In addition to these, there will be learners from other Windsor and Maidenhead Schools.

3.7 The enrolments for Creative and Media in other areas in Berkshire for September 2009 demonstrate this is a popular line of learning. The predictions above look achievable. The Diploma Panel that assessed the submission saw this as a clear and realistic analysis. The distinct advantage of this Diploma in Creative and Media is that it is industry-led: others in Berkshire are not.

3.8 The predicted number of out of Borough pupils is shown in bold. JAM has an established reputation in Marlow and South Bucks and it is estimated will attract students from schools outside the Borough. At Level 3 Post 16 these would be full time students. The Marlow area has not yet developed a Creative and Media Diploma. The raising of the education participation age for pupils in year 7 who started secondary/middle school in 2008 will increase enrolments by 2013 and 2014.

By this time, the consortium would have developed relationships with companies where 17-19 year olds can be employed and train at the same time.

- 3.9 Local authorities not involved in waves 1-6 of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) have been allocated Capital Funding of £2 million in Sept 2009 -10 and £6 million in 2010 -11. The funding is intended to support the provision of facilities for the delivery of 14-19 Diplomas and/or to improve facilities for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities are encouraged to utilise the resource for a small number of substantial projects for greater impact. The 14-19 Partnership anticipate that four projects will be recommended in the Royal Borough each of which will be expected to operate within a capital envelope of £1.5-£2m.
- 3.10 The 2009-10 capital programme already identifies some expenditure from this grant for urgent works in secondary schools. The two projects are Charters school for heating pipework replacement and Desborough school for kitchen refurbishment, amounting to £320k. There is also a need to improve provision for students with special educational needs.
- 3.11 Before the 14-19 Partnership group had the opportunity to research the capital implications of the Diploma roll-out, indicative amounts of £300k (in 2009-10) and £3,500k (for 2010-11) were identified in the capital programme to fund some of the condition and suitability work required at Desborough school. This funding was provisionally allocated from the 14-19 capital grant. Clearly, the advent of the Building Schools for the Future bid will, if successful, enable larger scale improvements to be implemented at Desborough in the context of a Maidenhead-wide strategic development. The Diploma capital proposals therefore supersede the initial capital programme allocations of funding.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Options

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
1.	Plan for a Diploma entitlement by 2013 and link 14-19 capital money to the development of several substantial facilities for diploma delivery Recommended option	14-19 reforms supported by capital funding have accelerated planning for new vocational provision and new school partnerships are developing.	Capital total of £8m by 2011. Additional funding is provided by DCSF to support partnership planning and the funding of lines that successfully go through a Gateway submission process. Associated revenue costs to be covered from the new Diploma grant and contributions from schools' delegated budgets.

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
2.	Decouple Diploma planning from capital funding and spread spend over a wide range of general secondary school maintenance /improvement projects	Does not meet specific priorities for use of funding	

4.2 Risk assessment

Risk	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
In the first year of Diploma delivery (2009) learner numbers may be low	High	New Diploma lines introduced in 2010-2011 (see table at 3.5). Numbers anticipated to grow as more information, advice and guidance is given to students about Diplomas.	Medium
The current pace of Diploma development works suggests the Royal Borough may find it difficult to provide a full learner entitlement by 2013	High	Cross-border partnerships will be developed and extended	Medium
Competition from other areas running the same Diploma	Medium	Early signs suggest that students are more likely to access provision from within the borough, due to timetabling, funding and other arrangements	Low
Breakdown of partnerships between schools and colleges	Medium	The Creative and Media Diploma is a school/industry-led partnership. Colleges will be encouraged to provide expertise for specific elements. Colleges will have a strong role in other Diplomas such as Construction, Engineering and Manufacturing	Low
Investing in facilities in the absence of a clear commitment to the development of Diplomas from an incoming government	Medium	Any facilities developed as a result of this capital funding would be effectively used for any future courses, as the Creative and Media areas are already strengths in the three partner schools	Low

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 Consultation with Secondary Headteachers and the 14-19 Partnership to determine Diploma planning aligned to capital allocations took place on 21 January 2009. Ongoing consultation continues to take place with schools and colleges.

6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 6.1 The Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel will meet on 21 July and their comments will be reported verbally at Cabinet on 23 July.

7. IMPLICATIONS The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Background Papers:

Delivering 14-19 Reform; Next Steps DCSF October 2008
14-19 Partnerships and planning DCSF January 2009