

REPORT TO CABINET

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

Date: 22 October 2009

Member Reporting: Councillor Mrs Quick

Contact Officer(s): Simon Evry

Wards Affected: All Wards

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek Cabinet approval for a proposal from a diploma consortium of two schools and a college to use grant allocation to develop facilities at Charters, for the Sport and Active Leisure Diploma which will be 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 options at Key Stage 4 and 17 options at Post 16 by September 2013. Rigorous and detailed submissions for diploma options 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 Government grant of £8 million. £2 million is to be spent by August 2010 and £6 million by August 2011.
- 1.4 Further submissions for capital funds are being developed: from a consortium led by Windsor Boys to enable delivery of Construction, Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Hairdressing and a submission from Maidenhead schools to support the Retail, Business Administration and Finance, and IT diplomas. These submissions, when further developed, will be subject to approval at future Cabinet meetings.

2 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The proposal to allocate £1.5 million capital grant allocation to develop facilities at Charters School to deliver the Sport and Active Leisure Diploma from September 2011 be approved**
- ii) **It be noted that further capital submissions are being developed to deliver the Construction, Business and Finance, and IT and Retail Diplomas each of which are likely to be of 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. This enhanced choice and diversity will enable more young people to stay in learning and reduce the numbers who are not in education, employment or training. The wider community will also benefit from the enhanced resources at the leisure centre.

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 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 Learning and Skills Council, the Education-Business Partnership and officers of 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.
- 3.5 Sport and Leisure qualifications are popular existing options which will be further enhanced by the diploma offer. The table indicates predicted uptake of pupil numbers from the three centres within the partnership. In addition to these, there will be learners from other Windsor and Maidenhead Schools:

	Current pupil numbers on other Sport/Leisure related courses			SAL Diploma only 2011 – 2012			SAL Diploma only 2012 – 2013		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Charters School	0	320	53	0	20	20	0	50	50
Windsor Boys' School	0	180	36	0	20	0	0	50	0
Berkshire College of Agriculture	8	25	29	10	20	0	10	40	0
Eg Rest of RBWM									
Newlands	0	47	11						
WGS	0	180	5						
Cox Green	0	65	20						
	8	817	154	10	60	20	10	140	50

3.6 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.

3.7 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	14-19 reforms supported by capital funding have accelerated planning for new vocational provision	Capital total of £8m by 2011. Additional funding is provided by DCSF to support

	Option	Comments	Financial Implications
	substantial facilities for diploma delivery Recommended option	and new school partnerships are developing.	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.
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
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 Sport and Leisure areas are already strengths in the three partners	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 Panel endorsed the recommendations.

7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

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

Background Papers:

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