

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 18 April 2007

Subject: Spend of additional funds allocated by the Scottish Executive

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform members of the actual spend of the additional funds provided by the Scottish Executive.

2. Background

2.1 Funds were downloaded on a pro rata basis to schools and centres in December.

2.2 Committee approval was gained in February 2007 for the procurement of the appropriate goods, services and works for the remaining £500,000.

3. Main Developments

3.1 Agreement was reached on a common PC platform for all council establishments.

3.2 Primary schools requested laptop computers as well as desktop machines.

3.3 Secondary schools, in the majority, requested ICT resources beyond just PC machines.

3.4 Software programmes to support teaching and learning were needed to support the smooth transfer from one platform to another, particularly in the primary sector.

3.5 Tenders were sought for the bulk purchase of computers.

3.6 Upgrading of infrastructure was unable to be undertaken due to time restrictions for the necessary works and will be actioned in the next financial year from delegated Scottish Executive funds for National Grid for Learning.

4. Action taken

4.1 7 companies supplied tenders for the bulk purchase of computers. One company was chosen for the purchase of laptops and one was chosen for the purchase of desktop machines.

4.2 The successful bidders were selected on the basis of cost to the council, delivery and set-up arrangements.

- 4.3 The benefit gained from the bulk purchase allowed additional funds to be downloaded to some secondary schools to top up individual requests and enable the school to purchase further computers.
- 4.4 All schools have benefited from this allocation of funding. Primary schools have received an allocation of hardware and software based on their size of school. Secondary schools have received a core allocation of hardware, software for teaching and learning, individual ICT requests and in some cases additional funding for local purchases. (Appendix 1)

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1 The report has no implications for personnel.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The delegated funds from the Scottish Executive have been fully spent for the benefit of schools.

7. Risk Assessment

- 7.1 All risks associated with inability to fully access the funds from the Scottish Executive have been eliminated.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Members are requested:
- (a) to note the contents of this report;
 - (b) to welcome the opportunity provided by the additional allocation of funds to support capacity building in the use of ICT in West Dunbartonshire schools.

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