

SBM briefing May 2022

1. DES Updates for all schools:

A. VASCA Capital Allocations for VA schools:

You may be aware that the Department for Education has confirmed our central capital allocation for 22/23; we are in the process of informing VA schools of the outcome of their bids. The funding was heavily oversubscribed as ever with over £13 million of bids submitted by schools while our allocation of funding was just under £6 million. So far we have been able to commit to carrying out 44 projects across the VA school estate with projects ranging from boiler replacement, asbestos removal, electrical rewires, installing fire alarms and replacing windows and doors. We will also be carrying out a number of energy efficiency projects too this year that were highlighted in the HDP's.

B. DFC: all schools will receive an allocation of Devolved formula capital once more this year. The amount of funding will be similar to last years allocation so for a typical primary school it will be around £9k. The funding hasn't been received in the school building fund accounts yet but is expected in June. Please contact Jane Hatton in the F&B team if you have any queries about DFC.

C. Feedback from H&S audits and key highlights:

You'll be aware that we recently had the diocesan insurance broker, PIB carry out a statutory compliance audit on 10% of the school estate. The findings were provided in a summary report.

D. DfE's National Rebuilding Programme: We made a good number of submissions across the VA and academy estate which we should hear about later this year.

E. Archbishops Directives & Occupancy Document: The diocese has issued a set of directives known as Archbishops Directives which are binding for all Catholic schools, including those which are not in diocesan trusteeship.

The directives cover:

- Appointment to Catholic posts including teachers of RE and DES advisory rights..
- Teaching of RE & the RE curriculum
- Admissions
- Employment documents and contracts in Catholic schools – CES model policies
- Ecclesiastical property which includes schools
- Data sharing

Following publication of the Directives, all boards of directors (and governing bodies for VA schools) will be issued with an Occupancy document. This document sets out the basis upon which the School occupies the Trustees' premises for the purpose of conducting a Catholic school including responsibilities of directors (the employer) with regard to occupation of the school site, setting out trustee requirements including those relating to H&S.

F. Catholic School Licenses and Hire Agreements (Please note presentation on the DES website):

Now available on the BDES website is a suite of documents that relate to hiring or letting parts of a school site under the building information section.

Hire Agreements

The diocesan trustees have recently concluded that it would be sensible to have a standard hiring agreement available for use by schools, and that authority to sign such agreements should be delegated to schools by the trustees.

Hire agreements are intended for use on an ad-hoc basis and should be used for one off events or for hire to organisations which use part of the school once or twice a week.

The hiring agreement should not be used for organisations which use part of the school every or most school days, such as before and after school clubs. Those organisations will need to have a licence.

There is also a template emergency plan for you to download from the website & complete to issue to the person or organisation who is hiring the school facilities.

Licences

For more regular use of the school facilities, a licence will be needed. On the BDES website is a form which tells you what information is required from an organisation who you are going to grant a licence to occupy school facilities to. If you are considering a licence, please download a copy of the form, complete the details and submit it to the F&B team. We will then arrange for the licence to be drafted and sent back to you to arrange signature by the relevant parties (organisation and a director). A signed copy should also be returned to the DES.

G. Diocesan Response to the Climate Emergency Update:

- The Diocese has set up a working party with many groups represented in response to the climate emergency. There are a number of initiatives underway and planned.
- 1st tranche of HDP's have been finalised and approved by Salix which is great news. Once the bidding rounds open again later this year we shall be submitting bids for the next tranche of schools.

So what are Heat Decarbonisation Plans and what is the purpose of a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP)? As ever the F&B team here at DES are here to support you with any queries that you may have.

The purpose of a HDP is to describe how an organisation intends to replace fossil fuel reliant systems with low carbon alternatives (e.g. Heat Pumps). To meet the challenge of net zero, organisations throughout the UK need to decarbonise their buildings. The HDP's completed to date also include an action plan of what works are required at each school. It is the HDP's completed to date that will be used as a basis for submitting capital bids when the PSDS funding window opens later this year.

DFE Webinars: these webinars on approved frameworks to see how you could save money for your school

The Department for Education (DfE) is hosting a series of webinars on how using their approved frameworks could help your school get value for money. And, of course we have the DfE later this morning to talk to you about this. We will share the webinar links with you all.

All sessions are free, use these Eventbrite links to join the Schools Commercial Team and take the opportunity to ask providers the questions you may have:

- [YPO energy – 12 May 2022](#)
- [Everything ICT – 17 May 2022](#)
- [CCS digital marketplace \(G-cloud 12\) – 17 May 2022](#)
- [RPA information session – 18 May 2022](#)
- [How to make your school water efficient – 18 May 2022](#)

For the latest on our wide range of webinars, check out the events tab on our [Buying for schools LinkedIn](#) page.

- H. **DfE has launched its sustainability and climate change strategy**, which aims to empower pupils and those working in education to fight climate change.

Key action areas include increasing opportunities for young people to learn from and connect with nature, driving climate education and green skills, decarbonising school buildings and making them more climate resilient, and increasing the sustainability of operations and supply chains in education settings. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy>

- I. **The DfE is consulting on energy and has asked schools to complete a survey.** The current energy situation is challenging and many schools whose contract is due to expire over the coming months are trying to get the best value when renewing their contracts.

We are contacting all schools in England to get basic data on their current and future energy tariffs. Your answers will be used to help us to understand how schools will be affected by recent energy price increases so we can consider what additional support we can offer.

The [survey is open until 1 June 2022](#) and we would like to encourage as many schools as possible to respond.

- J. **Finally, we are starting to compile a list of organisations** and websites that offer school staff discounts. (It can cover anything from days out for the family to food discounts) If you are aware of any organisations that offer school staff (teaching and support staff) discounts please do let us have the details to add to the list which can be shared with all schools.

The F&B Team contact details can be found on the DES website for any queries that you might have.