

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education

LCVAP Capital Premises Funding for Voluntary Aided Schools

Introduction

The Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) is currently the main funding stream for Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. The following guidance is provided for headteachers and governors at VA schools and Board of Education Officers are very happy to offer assistance. Further guidance can be found by consulting the DfE Bluebook at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175382/Blue_Book_-_Capital_Funding.pdf

A. LCVAP Defined

LCVAP is a formulaic allocation which the Education Funding Agency (EFA) requests each Local Authority (LA) to coordinate on their behalf, in consultation with local partners, (i.e. Dioceses and other non-denominational VA schools). The programme is allocated according to local needs and priorities.

Key points

1. This funding programme is only for capital works associated with school premises.
 - a. For all VA schools capital funding is only allocated for works costing over the current de minimus limit of £2,000 (excluding VAT).
 - b. All building and maintenance works costing under £2,000 (excluding VAT) are revenue works and must be funded direct by the school, using alternative non EFA funding.
 - c. Although there is no upper limit on the value of project bids in order to share the allocation fairly amongst schools, historically projects up to £250,000 have been included, rather than larger projects.
2. EFA grant aid is paid at 90% of the amount allocated and approved as the gross grant aided project cost.
3. Governors are liable for 10% of the gross grant aided project cost and also for 100% of any non-grant aided expenditure.
4. VAT is payable on all capital works, unless zero-rated due to the type of works and cannot be reclaimed.
5. Under the DBE Measure 1991 the governors of Church schools must obtain written permission from their Diocesan Board of Education before undertaking any work on their school buildings.
6. LCVAP funding must be spent in the year it is allocated. If not, it becomes a commitment in the following year resulting in fewer new projects being funded.
7. There should be no delay in starting a project once the allocation has been confirmed. We would strongly advise that the project should be underway before the end of September in the financial year the funding is allocated. If a project is delayed beyond this time, we may be forced to allocate the funds elsewhere.
8. There are always many more applications for funding than there is funding available and final decisions are made with all local stakeholders' involvement as mentioned in B3 below.

B. The LCVAP Process in the Diocese of Rochester

1. In April schools are invited to submit bids by the 31 July for funding in the following financial year. Such bids should be prepared following prior consultation with the Diocesan approved appointed consultant and include.
 - a. A brief description of the project

- b. A clear justification for the project
 - c. Budget costs including professional fees and VAT and
 - d. Confirmation that the governors are able to meet the 10% liability and any non-grant aided liability.
2. In September the Board of Education's Finance and Resources Committee considers all project bids received and determines the programme based on priorities and need. The programme of successful projects is then submitted to each of the four LAs within the Diocese.
 3. Each of the LAs host and chair meetings with other Dioceses and other non-denominational Voluntary Aided (VA) schools where each project is considered in competition with other VA bids received in the LA area. Comments on each project are taken into consideration and reviewed and final decisions are then made and the programme confirmed usually around February or March when schools are notified.
 4. The following factors will be considered when determining individual project priorities.
 - a. Remedying Health and Safety matters
 - b. Essential capital repairs
 - c. Suitability of existing accommodation
 - d. Number of pupils on roll compared with the Published Admission Number (PAN)
 - e. Previous allocations of LCVAP funding to the school
 - f. Availability of other funding
 - g. Governors' ability to fund their associated liabilities
 - h. School's Academy conversion plans and
 - i. Other relevant factors

C. The administration of LCVAP

Although the contractual relationships for LCVAP projects are for individual governing bodies as the Religious Authority and or school Trustees and custodians of LCVAP funding, the Board of Education will ensure that an appropriately experienced consultant is appointed and advice given concerning projects is heeded.

Board of Education officers deal with the administration of LCVAP projects including.

1. Ensuring all necessary EFA and LA approvals have been obtained.
2. Administering payments to contractors and professionals on behalf of schools.
3. Assisting in resolving EFA Funding Issues.
4. Liaison with and returns to EFA.
5. Collecting governors' 10% contributions

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