



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Funding of Church of England Voluntary Aided School Premises

Overview

1. Governing Body liable for capital costs (except playing fields) and Local Authority liable for revenue costs (and playing field capital costs).
2. Governing Body capital sourced via grant funding from DfE (via Education & Skills Funding Agency), which is distributed on an LA area basis, through Diocesan Buildings Officers.
3. Two types of grant capital available- LCVAP (Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme) & DFC (Devolved Formula Capital). Actual grants are at 90% level, with the Governing Body liable for the remaining 10% contribution (usually sourced from its delegated budget). This 10% contribution is required by the DfE in recognition for additional control that VA Governing Bodies have over their sites, including employment of staff. It is possible for an LA to fund the 10% contribution on behalf of the school, which occasionally occurs.
4. There is a '*de minimis*' lower threshold of £2,000, below which a project cannot be considered as capital.

LCVAP

1. LCVAP is distributed by ESFA on an LA area basis across the country. Our Diocese deals solely with the SCC LA area.
2. The SCC area LCVAP allocation covers both Church of England & Roman Catholic Diocese schools. There is a communal 'pot', which is divided up based on highest need, in a collaborative manner involving each Diocese and the LA coordinator (currently Carol Barber of HWCS at Suffolk County Council).
3. To establish C of E school priorities, all VA schools are encouraged to bid for funding towards projects. They are asked to check their most recent condition report and discuss priorities with their Corporate Property Adviser. On receipt of the bids, and following a meeting with the RC Diocese and the LA, the funding is allocated to individual projects at individual schools. The LA advises ESFA of the allocation.

Diocesan Office, St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Tel: +44 (0)1473 298500 | Email: dbf@cofesuffolk.org | Website: www.cofesuffolk.org

4. The Diocesan Buildings Officer asks schools to obtain estimates (via a professional consultant where appropriate) and reports these to ESFA for its approval to proceed with the works.
5. Following approval, contracts are let and work completed, with invoices paid by the Diocese on behalf of the schools. On completion, 90% grant monies are claimed by the Diocese from ESFA, and the Diocese invoices the school for its 10% contribution.
6. VAT is usually payable on all capital projects- see separate VAT guidance.
7. Projects must be completed and invoices paid within the financial year of allocation. At the time of writing, this deadline is 31st March of each financial year.

DFC

1. An annual DFC allocation for each school is calculated using an ESFA formula, based largely on pupil census data.
2. Each allocation must be spent within three years, or it is lost.
3. All but one CEVA school ask the Diocese to hold DFC funds on account on their behalf. Capital projects are ordered by the school and invoices paid by the Diocese using the 90% grant held on account, with the school providing its 10% contribution when costs are complete. By placing the DFC funds on deposit for schools, interest is earned and available to schools to spend.
4. The school is free to choose how its DFC is spent, within the ESFA rules (*de minimis* etc.).
5. An annual 'Assurance Return' is sent to ESFA each year by the Diocese, to confirm how much DFC has been spent and carried forwards. The ESFA will choose to audit a small number of schools.

Author: D Jones, Diocesan Buildings Officer, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Church of England Diocese, Updated 11/02/2019

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