The LSC has given conditional approval to six capital projects. These will increase the number of available places for 16 to 19 year olds, needed because of the outstanding success of the guarantee for school leavers.

This follows the Government’s announcement earlier in the week that an additional £30million would be spent on capital builds for 16 to 19 year olds on top of the £240million already assured. The total investment in new 16 -19 facilities over the current spending review period now totals £687m.

The projects conditionally approved are as follows:

- Altrincham College of Art
- Blessed Thomas Holford College
- Heathcote School (Chingford, London)
- Phoenix High School (Shepherd's Bush, London)
- Lowestoft Sixth Form College
- Sheffield College.

These projects are the highest priority 16-19 capital projects. They were identified by applying the criteria established by the Government for 16-19 capital projects. The LSC will challenge each project to ensure that final costings represent best value for money.

Since the launch of this successful programme in 2006, £687m has been committed to 112 projects throughout England, with 100 schemes already underway or fully completed.

The LSC announced a pause of further applications in August, while DCSF and LSC conducted a review of commitments and future demand against the budget available for 2010-11. A further £30m was identified in addition to the £25m remaining in the fund to support additional projects.

The disposition of any funds remaining after the above projects are finalised will be decided following a full prioritisation review as early as possible in the New Year.

**Geoff Russell said:**

“The 16-19 Capital Programme has been tremendously successful in improving the facilities available to learners and communities. I am pleased to be able to support these additional projects. They offer greater educational choice by providing a curriculum with greater breadth and balance.”

**Iain Wright, Minister for 14-19 Reform, said:**

“I am delighted that these projects will be getting this investment for post-16 learning places. The number of students in this age bracket is growing all the time backed by the September Guarantee and the January Guarantee as well as an increase of 80,000 who will be getting the Education Maintenance Allowance. This means we have to increase the number of places available, especially in areas where there is a shortage which is why we need to invest on the capital side as well.”
Notes to Editors

The 16-19 fund administered by the LSC was established in 2006 to support the capital costs of new 16-19 provision arising mainly from presumptions and competitions. The investment is to create high quality provision, focused on the priorities for capital funding; expanding sixth form facilities at the highest performing schools and provide capital support for the outcomes of competitions to fill particular gaps in 16-19 provision locally. This amounts to £687m in the current Spending Review period.

Since the launch of this successful programme, 112 projects throughout England have been agreed.

Capital projects

The 16-19 capital policy stipulates that Presumptions and Competitions comprise the highest priority projects. In order to allow time for projects to be started and finished by the cut-off date of 31 March 2011, the LSC, with recommendations from PwC, has reviewed those projects arising from Presumptions and Competitions that have submitted applications. The LSC is therefore agreeing the highest priority projects first, in order to determine how much of the budget is left for ‘Other’ projects. The LSC will work with PwC to examine the selection criteria and apply them to the “other” projects.

The Sixth Form Presumption is one of the measures introduced in the former DfES’s Five Year Strategy to increase national capacity for post-16. Under this arrangement, there will be a presumption of success for proposals to open sixth forms from a specialist school that has met the published criteria for high-performing specialist school status and has been awarded a second specialism.

16-19 Competitions are competitions held by the LSC where there is a requirement for substantial new 16-19 provision within a local area.

The projects given conditional approval this week are all Presumptions or Competitions:

- Presumptions
  - Altrincham College of Art
  - Blessed Thomas Holford College
  - Heathcote School (Chingford, London)
  - Phoenix High School (Shepherd’s Bush, London)

- Competitions
  - Lowestoft Sixth Form College
  - Sheffield College

Conditions

The LSC will challenge each Presumption project to confirm that the total cost is as low as possible, to ensure the project represents best value for money and to confirm the planned increases in learner places. Discussions are already underway with the schools and colleges involved. Each competition project has been through a local educational assessment. The LSC will now require each competition project to undergo a full educational, financial and property assessment.

Criteria used to determine ‘other’ projects

In setting priorities for the use of public funds available in 2009-10 and 10-11 we have adhered to the requirements of LSC’s capital funding guidance including the requirement that where demand exceeds the funding available priority will be given to projects which are the outcome of sixth form presumptions and 16-19 competitions that can be funded and complete within the current Spending Review period.
For any remaining funds for the expansion of 16-19 facilities the LSC has developed a prioritisation process, in consultation with sector representative bodies (AoC, REACT, ASCL, SFCF) based on the following criteria:

- the readiness of the project to deliver,
- the ability to complete by March 2011,
- the capacity to increase the number of learner places,
- the capacity to meet the needs of young people who are NEET, or at risk of becoming NEET,
- the capacity to meet needs of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities,
- expanding the curriculum to enable young people to enjoy the full Entitlement,
- co-funding from non-LSC sources,
- sufficiency of collaboration to ensure the proposal fits 14-19 area plans, and
- sufficiency of consultation with stakeholders

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