

ICT Refresh Programme for Schools

As you will have seen from the fair funding consultation process, in April 2006 additional money is being devolved to schools in Devolved Formula Capital and Schools Development Grant for ICT Hardware and Infrastructure. The main aim is for schools to ensure they maintain the Pupil: PC ratios provided by previous phases of NGfL/ ICT in Schools funding by replacing assets and infrastructure on a planned basis.

The refresh programme will allow schools to utilise this funding by benefiting from the local authority's buying power and ensuring investment in ICT that meets curriculum requirements and is future-proofed to accommodate new services as they become available.

The Management Committee will manage the funding and ensure that full accounting of the school's contribution is identified. A Customer Contract Officer will work with you to develop a replacement schedule and scope of work over the four year contract period.

How does the funding work?

In response to a number of queries from schools the new funding works as follows:

Devolved capital formula funding has been increased from 2006-07 by 20% compared to 2005-06 to include 16.66% of the total allocation for ICT hardware and infrastructure expenditure for schools.

School Development Grant – this is a new fund which includes approximately £16 per pupil for ICT expenditure for Nursery, Primary and Special schools and Pupil Referral units and approximately £26 per pupil for Secondary schools. These figures are approximations because there is some variation as funding is related to pupil numbers in 2006/07.

How much does Refresh cost me?

The concept of ICT Refresh is that schools contribute both these funds into the 4 year programme with the guarantee of the following return:

- **75% of each school's contribution would be allocated for the replacement and installation of ICT hardware.**

This amount would be guaranteed to be spent in full at each school over the contract period.

- **20% of each school's contribution would be allocated for the replacement of ICT cabling and switches.**

This amount would be guaranteed to be spent in full at each school over either the existing or the following contract period. This allocation is a recommendation only and spending would be considered with individual schools subject to technical product developments in the following with years. The amount would be refundable to a school if they chose to opt out of the scheme at the end of the first contract period.

- **The remaining 5% would be available as an insurance fund to ensure service requirements could be met at all schools throughout the contract.**

Money not spent in the insurance fund would be returned to all schools in the programme pro rata to the amount they contributed.

Spending is related to the contribution allocated to the fund for that school and based on joint planned discussion. Monies outside the contingency fund will not be vired between schools.

Exceptions to the above statement

Norfolk School Project

All schools that are part of the Norfolk Schools Project will receive 20% of their total allocation for 2006/07, in line with the agreement that DFC allocations will contribute towards the cost of their building projects. This arrangement will also continue for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 allocations. Schools will receive their allocations in full from 2009/10, unless they are moving into completely new buildings. This means that schools can be included in the Refresh Programme and consider equipment for their new accommodation within the programme.

Norwich Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Schools that are part of the Norwich Schools PFI will not received any DFC allocation starting from 2006/07 for three years.

Voluntary Aided Schools

The Diocese supports VA Schools being included in the scheme.

Can I put more or less money from these and other funds into the programme?

Yes, We will discuss the actual amounts and how you propose to fund them. Obviously if you put less money in than the allocated funds then the levels of spend would equate to your allocation and not the level indicated in the ICT Refresh brochure or website, Similarly more funds allocated would increase the level of spend accordingly.

What if my school has already replaced all it's equipment?

For those schools that have already replaced their NGfL hardware, this could be an opportunity to look at innovative products, such as interactive whiteboards or video conferencing. It could be used to extend laptops to more teachers or increase the PCs available. At some point you will still need to plan replacement and the recommendation is a four year replacement cycle

Benefits to schools of the Refresh programme

- Best value prices on products and services, which meet the needs of schools and help you get more for your money.
- NGfL attempted to give schools a consistent platform of hardware specification and software versions to help staff and pupils find the same approach throughout the school. Involvement in Refresh will aim to maintain this approach. This will be more difficult to achieve if PCs and software are replaced on an annual basis.
- The ICT Refresh programme will be resourced related to take-up to provide a coordinated plan from procurement, through installation to training. This means participation in the scheme will enable us to provide service level agreements so you know the timescale of the start to finish processes.

For more information please contact ICT Solutions at 0845 303 3003 or visit the website <http://ictsolutions.norfolk.gov.uk>