

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Estates and Infrastructure Capital Funding

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To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales
Response by: **22 March 2013**
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This circular announces the allocation of £6 million end of year capital funding to be used on capital projects which support the development or maintenance of the non-residential estate or for the development or maintenance of other infrastructure provision. The allocations proposed support the Council's strategic priorities of reconfiguration and collaboration and research.

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Introduction

1. The Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has announced that it intends to provide £6 million end of year capital to the higher education sector prior to the end of the current financial year. The use of this capital will be restricted to capital estates or other capital infrastructure projects. The funding cannot be used to support the development or maintenance of the residential estate.
2. The allocations proposed align with the Council's strategic priorities of reconfiguration and collaboration and research and support those institutions who can demonstrate a clear alignment to the delivery of these strategic priorities. The proposed allocations are shown in Annex A.
3. These allocations have been calculated by applying £3 million of the funding pro rata to full time equivalent student number to those institutions who are engaged in mergers. The remaining £3 million is to be distributed pro rata to research income using the same methodology as has been applied to our research capital funding in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Identification of capital projects

4. To ensure that the capital allocations are used appropriately we will require institutions to identify their proposed capital projects using the pro forma provided at Annex B. Capital projects identified must have a spend profile that will ensure that the capital allocation is fully spent by 30 September 2013, although the project itself need not be completed by that date. Institutions may include a number of projects provided that they utilise at least £50,000 of the allocation on each project. Alternative projects should be identified and included within Annex B where there is any possibility that the identified project(s) will not be able to proceed sufficiently to complete the expenditure of the capital allocation by 30 September 2013.
5. Any proposals put forward must not displace existing public funding but can be used to add to such projects subject to compliance with the requirements of the original funder. This requirement does not apply to projects using private sector funding, or the universities own capital resources. We will expect all identified projects to be consistent with the strategic plan of the university and its estate strategy or other relevant strategies. All projects must identify how they will enhance the student experience. Where funding is used to support a new build project then the project must be consistent with the Welsh Government's sustainable building standards.¹
6. Student accommodation or non- residential projects outside of Wales will not be eligible for funding under these proposals.

¹ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/design/standards/?lang=en>

Reporting on capital projects

7. Institutions will be required to confirm that the planned expenditure has been incurred by returning Annex C no later than 11 October 2013.

Timetable

8.

Annex B response (Identification of projects)	22 March 2013
Completion of allocation spend	30 September 2013
Annex C response (Confirmation of project spend)	11 October 2013

Further information / responses to

9. For further information, contact Chris Cowburn (tel 029 2068 2247; email chris.cowburn@hefcw.ac.uk).

Assessing the impact of our policies

10. We will be carrying out an equality impact assessment to help safeguard against discrimination and promote equality. We will also consider the impact of policies on the Welsh language, and Welsh language provision within the HE sector in Wales. Contact equality@hefcw.ac.uk for more information about EIAs.