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ACADEMY SCHOOLS LATEST INFORMATION BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 2016
CONDITION IMPROVEMENT FUND



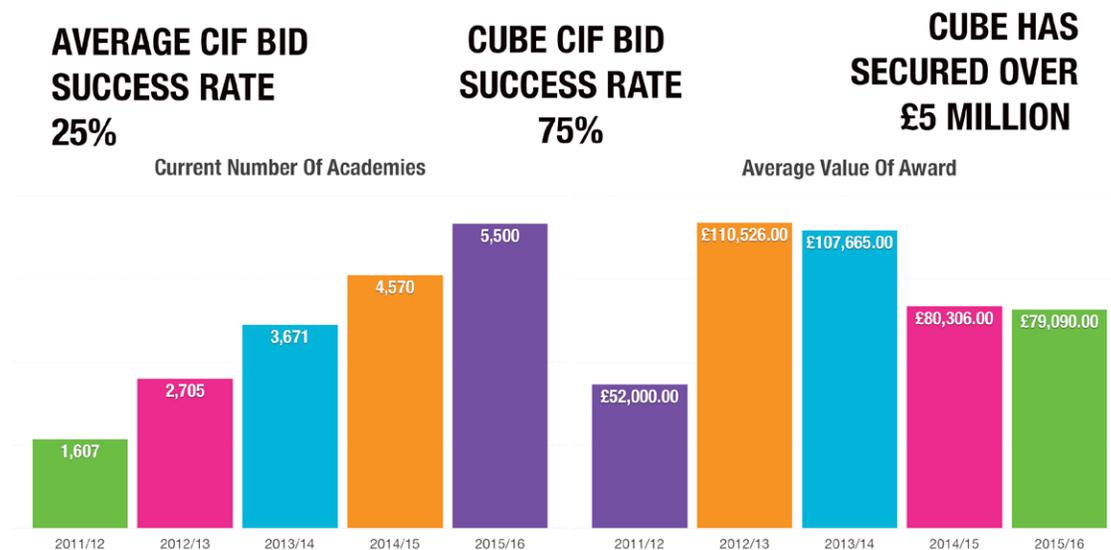
**HOW TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL CIF
FUNDING?
THE FIVE SECRETS TO SUCCESS!**

We all know the key to success for everything in life is forward planning and preparation and this applies in bucket loads when it comes to achieving success in securing funding for your school or Sixth Form College.

Cube Building Consultancy has been continuing to work successfully with Academy schools & Sixth forms to secure funding for their condition improvement projects. In the last round of CIF bids (2016/17 funding period) we secured over £1.5 million in funding for our school clients. This built on our previous success with CIF in its first year when we secured £950,000 in funding for our school clients. Previously with the

Academies Capital Maintenance Fund over a 2 year period we achieved £2.1 million of funding for our school clients.

We believe that every school can achieve the funding they need to improve and maintain the condition of their school buildings and we provide below some of our secrets to success.



The 2016-17 round of CiF expenditure:

£435 Million budget

1,276 school projects

1,030 schools benefited

1. Setting Your Priorities

First and foremost you need to make the right choices!

In order to achieve this it is crucial to have a **Strategic Premises Plan** in place as a result of going through a review of the school buildings condition and capacity not forgetting the services that ensure the premises safe and efficient functioning. This review will assess suitability, condition, capacity and future requirements. It will allow you to identify the key priorities for replacement, refurbishment and adaptation and whether there is any deficit or surplus services, rooms or buildings.

Once you have identified the key priorities you can ensure that limited resources available are directed towards the most urgent need.

Cube Building Consultancy has worked with a number of schools to help develop a Strategic Premises Plan by undertaking Condition and Area Assessments and analysing the data produced to help identify the priority works and any major defects or deficits.

2. Seeking Funding

It does not matter how good your chosen project is, if you fail to meet the criteria and requirements of the funders.

CIF's core priority as the name suggests is **CONDITION**:

- Keeping buildings safe and in good working order.
- Addressing issues with significant consequences.

The highest priority is being given to condition projects that address compliance and health and safety matters. Whilst Building Fabric (weather tightness) and Heating and water supply services are the second highest priority.

It is unlikely that funding will be available for any other type of building condition project after these priorities have been met.

A small proportion of the CIF fund is available for high performing Academies to tackle school expansion issues be this in relation to overcrowding or increasing admissions. Highest Priority will be given to schools and colleges that are popular rated as Outstanding and where pupil performance is above the national average. The EFA are encouraging schools and colleges to set up Free Schools in these circumstances.

3. Strength Of Need

In a lot of cases, applications are rejected because the EFA do not believe that there is a need for the project, or because they are not persuaded that your project will solve the particular problem.

Funders want to know that you have a good reason for your project.

You will need to provide good, detailed and strong evidence to justify your priority decisions. This evidence should demonstrate the urgency for the project and the significance of any failures to undertake the work required.

You will also need to demonstrate that your project is an appropriate response to the need. If you are looking for finance for a large project, you will need to carry out a fully costed options appraisal and show that you have researched the various ways you can meet the need, indicating which option you have chosen and why.

Cube Building Consultancy can help you by providing or commissioning the independent, specialist consultant reports that you will need to evidence the priority you have given your project.

4. Sufficient Project Planning

Don't fall down at this penultimate hurdle you have prepared well so far now you need to demonstrate your ability to deliver the project solution on time and budget!

Projects need to be planned realistically taking account of potential risks. This should include a detailed programme plan and a comprehensive risk assessment with mitigations.

Cube Building Consultancy can provide the required Gantt Chart and Risk Register.

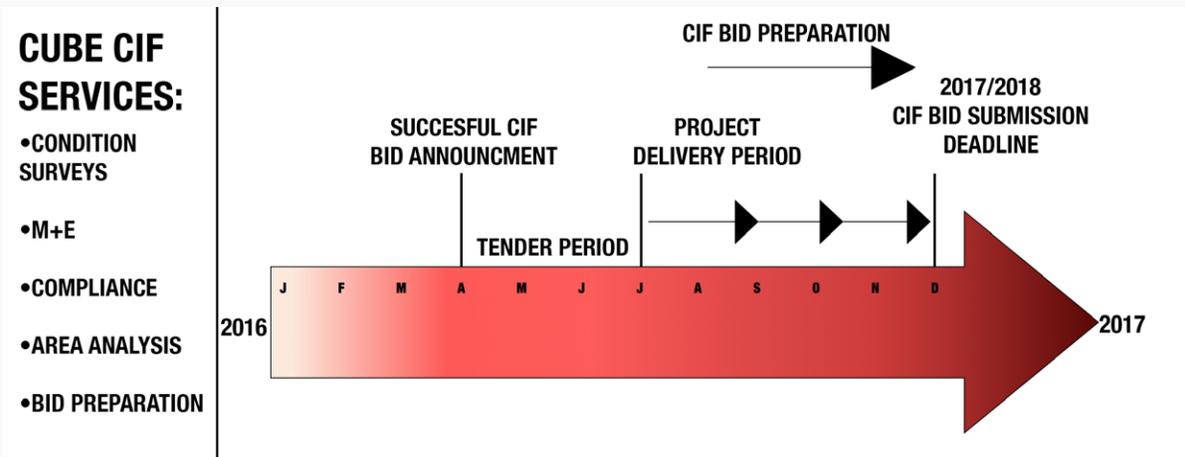
5. Sources Of Additional Funding And Costing Your Project

This really is the make or break hurdle you need to make sure it does not trip your project up.

You will need to demonstrate that the project has been realistically costed with a good level of cost certainty through either a tender process or through sufficient quotations being sought.

Once you are clear on the real cost of your project you need to ensure that you can provide some additional funding from other sources or consider inclusion of a loan element (this is particularly relevant where there will be revenue or capital savings as a result of the project).

Cube Building Consultancy can assist with tendering and costing projects and providing the certainty needed to secure loans or other sources of funding.



If you are interested in free and confidential advice regarding your school's potential for securing such funds please contact us

"Cube Building Consultancy provided the school with excellent strategic advice and a bespoke service that matched our individual needs."

"Cube's bid success rate is premised on the time and effort that each submission is afforded. The evidence is there for all to see."

"The partnership between the school and Cube is one that I would recommend to any other school seeking similar services."

Testimonials from some of Cube's satisfied clients.

