30th January 2013

Mr. Ruairi Quinn, TD

Minister for Education and Skills

Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Dear Minister

At a recent meeting of this Council, the members requested that I write to you seeking reinstatement of Minor Works Grants for primary schools. The importance of these grants and the implications for primary schools were of serious concern to members. They stressed the inability of parents and Boards of Management to raise funds within local communities in view of the current financial climate and the additional burdens facing households.

Members considered that the primary school sector is the most underfunded sector of the education system and that it is vitally important. Some schools are resorting to putting teachers on a 3 day week to cut costs. The difficulties in relation to cashflow arising from this reduction in their budget are unacceptable. Members quoted Professor Tom Collins of Maynooth who has stated that if any level of education needs funding urgently it is the primary school sector.

I would be grateful if you would reply to my letter in order that I may appraise the members of same.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Joyce

Senior Executive Officer/Meetings Administrator

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c.c all County Councils