


Bryan Slater
Director of Education

Distribution

To Headteachers of all High Schools,
Special Schools, PRUs

information

The attached document is provided for your **information**:

INFORMATION	Title	Building Schools for the Future		
	Summary of contents	This letter informs headteachers about how Norfolk's response to the Building Schools for the Future Initiative is being developed.		
	Associated documents	Letter dated 8 September		
	Date	10 September 2003		
	Effective from	10 September 2003		
	LEA Contact	David Lennard Jones		01603 223474
	E-mail address	david.lennard.jones@norfolk.gov.uk		
	Norfolk Self Review reference	How good are curricular and other opportunities?		
	Document reference	MI 189/03		

Dear Colleague

Building Schools for the Future

Earlier this year DfES announced its major new capital investment programme called Building Schools for the Future (*BSF*) for secondary schools, and special schools and PRUs with secondary pupils.

This programme is a 10 – 15 year investment strategy intended to substantially improve all secondary schools across the country. In Norfolk we believe that it could bring investment of around £500million over that period. The government's intention is that it will set up a phased programme over the 15 year period so that we can move away from the annual bidding rounds that have been the practice in the past. As the phased programme is being set up there is going to be one last bidding round for expenditure in 2005/2006. 2005/06 bids are to be submitted on 31 October and from this a small number of projects (10 to 20) will be funded across the country. Bids will be prioritised on the basis of their levels of high deprivation and low standards. Two or three of the ten to 20 projects agreed are likely to be from experienced

authorities with proposals which test out innovative procurement mechanisms and support the delivery of key policy objectives relating to 14 -19, SEN and rural issues. It has been made very clear in briefings held over the summer that Norfolk does not meet the deprivation and standards criteria. We can still bid but we are advised that our chances of a successful bid are slim. However, since this is a competitive process there is always a chance of success.

Almost in parallel to this bidding process for funding in 2005/2006, the DfES has asked LEAs to prepare a strategy for the phasing of the funding for all the secondary schools in the county. This strategy is being called an expression of interest. The strategy must be submitted to DfES by 19 December 2003 and needs to articulate Norfolk's integrated educational vision and identify how schools will be grouped into projects involving 10 – 15 schools in geographical areas so that the work can be phased. It will be critical that any Norfolk bid for 2005/06 is consistent with the Expression of Interest, as all projects must be underpinned by the same educational vision.

We will be meeting the LEA Improvement Group on the 18th September to discuss these issues and consider how we should develop the overall vision and strategy in Norfolk. Your NASH representatives on the group are Philip May (Costessey), Chris Hassell (Reepham), Stuart Bailey (Attleborough), Gerard Batty (Acle) and Mike Douglas (King Edward VII Kings Lynn). Special schools are represented by Geoff Kitchen (Harford Manor). Following this meeting we will write to you again with a progress report on Building Schools for the Future. Other meetings are taking place over the next few weeks which will help to shape the 14-19 strategy for Norfolk. This work will be integral with the development of the overall vision.

Without wishing to prejudice the outcome of the meeting on the 18th Sept, one of the outcomes might be a suggestion that we offer those receiving this letter a briefing session. I could offer a meeting after school on Tuesday 30th September if it was required and suggest you pencil in a 4pm meeting in case it is required. I will be able to confirm the date or cancel it when we next write to you.

We want to ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed about progress and can contribute to the thinking. Elaine Hopkins (elaine.hopkins@norfolk.gov.uk tel: 01603 222287) is co-ordinating the work of this project. If you wish to discuss the project further you could contact your headteacher representatives named above or you could contact Elaine, myself or other colleagues working on the project including Anna Davidson, Yvonne Barclay and David Lennard Jones.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months in developing Norfolk's approach to this exciting new initiative. We will write again later this month.

Yours sincerely
Sue Rossiter
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Copies: Sue Cooke, Burston Primary school (SNAPP representative)