

Brief for Headteachers on PFI and Building schools for the Future

PFI Update

- The £92 million PFI project for Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Caister, Stalham, Martham, Loddon, Long Stratton and Swaffham area schools will be coming to a close in July. A preferred bidder has been selected, Jarvis working in partnership with Carters. Negotiations are underway and include issues such as the phasing of the building work, contracts are expected to be signed around Christmas 2003.
- The Central Area PFI bid was successful in bringing an offer of £60 million PFI credits, about 30% of our total bid, all bids were capped at £60m. The project must now be re-scoped within current resource restraints before an Outline Business Case is submitted for approval. Opportunities to top up these PFI credits via funding streams such as Building Schools for the Future will be actively explored.

Building Schools for the Future

In May 2003 the DfES consulted widely upon 'Building Schools for the Future' a new capital investment programme for secondary schools, the details of which are summarised below.

- By 2005/2006 capital investment in schools is due to reach £5.1 billion. Building Schools for the Future will use £2.2 billion of this funding to transform secondary schools. Capital investment in primary schools will continue to be managed along existing lines with investment through formula and other allocations increasing by 25% over three years.
- Building Schools for the Future is intended to be a long-term programme of strategic investment (about 10-15 years), using a combination of conventional procurement methods and PFI. Funding will be allocated to around 15 LEA's per year and targeted at groups of 15-20 schools in each at an average of around £150M per group. The intention is to renew or replace the entire secondary building school stock over this period.
- The bidding criteria consulted upon highlighted the importance of supporting wider policy goals such as school re-organisation, inclusion, extended schools and neighbourhood renewal. Bids will be judged against the following criteria:-
 - contribution to raising standards.
 - extent of local deprivation.
 - state of school buildings.
 - an LEA's ability to deliver.

- Indicative timescales for this programme are as follows:-

June	Brief consultation of pre-qualification criteria.
September	Launch pre-qualification/Bids invited.
	Launch national procurement body.
November	Publish exemplar designs.
Dec - March	Announce first areas for investment.

In order to meet the needs of all of our secondary schools, large Counties like Norfolk will need to make several bids. Locally we will need to develop a strong long term strategic vision for secondary development from which groups of schools can be identified, prioritised and successful bids developed.

The LEA is highly committed to ensuring opportunities such as this are fully exploited to the full advantage of Norfolk's schools. We look forward to working with you in attracting this large scale investment and in making dramatic headway in improving our schools.