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To all Secondary & Special School Headteachers and Chairs of Governors

Dear Colleagues

Building Schools for the Future

I am writing to thank you for your considerable support in helping develop Norfolk's approach to Building Schools for the Future and to tell you about the progress we have made.

During this term a lot of time has been spent on Building Schools for the Future. Several conferences and meetings have been held involving headteachers, NASH groups, governors, young people and a broad range of key partners. These have helped to shape Norfolk's Expression of Interest for Building Schools for the Future. Over recent weeks we have consulted upon 'Transforming Learning – Norfolk's Future' and on the make up of the procurement groups. No objections have been raised to the four groupings and the overall response to 'Transforming Learning – Norfolk's Future' has been positive, amendments have been made to reflect your comments. In addition, schools have provided details regarding the physical development of your school. Each of these elements is now being used to inform the Expression of Interest, which we will complete over the coming days.

Members will be asked to approve the final submission and the way the four procurement groups are prioritised. The DfES has said that it will prioritise groupings in terms of deprivation and standards. On this basis, the Central and Western areas become Norfolk's highest priorities. However, we are re-emphasising within the Expression of Interest the very significant issues of rural deprivation in Norfolk, which must be addressed as part of this programme. I shall be recommending that the Central Area is Norfolk's first priority on the basis of the high levels of deprivation and low standards, poor post 16 stay on rates and the opportunity to align Building Schools for the Future with the existing PFI. In doing this we will be able to complete the change in age of transfer in Norwich. On the basis of deprivation and standards, the priority order is then Western Area followed by Northern Area and Southern Area. As the four procurement groups differ slightly from the existing NASH areas, I have re-attached the agreed procurement groupings for your information.

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All of Norfolk's schools are important and almost all need significant or very significant levels of capital investment. The DfES has made one thing absolutely clear. It is a case of "when" rather than "if" schools receive Building Schools for the Future funding. We are working hard, both within the Expression of interest and outside of this process, to articulate Norfolk's needs, its potential, its commitment and its experience in order to attract as much capital investment in Norfolk's schools as soon as possible. We agree with the point made by many headteachers that although this is an ambitious programme and has to be phased, we do need to find ways of supporting schools that may not be scheduled for major capital work early on.

The Expression of Interest must be submitted to the DfES by the 19 December. The DfES will then collate the information provided by all LEAs, in order to programme how long Building Schools for the Future will take, how much it will cost and when individual areas are likely to receive funding. At the end of March the DfES will indicate when areas might receive funding. Hopefully by this time further information regarding procurement arrangements and the exemplar designs will also be available and provide a context in which we can begin to develop in greater detail exactly what we will do under Building Schools for the Future.

David Lennard Jones, Anna Davidson, Elaine Hopkins, Yvonne Barclay and myself have been heavily involved in Building Schools for the Future, and we would all like to thank you for your support. We would particularly like to thank the Headteacher representatives, Stuart Bailey, Gerard Batty, Philip May, Chris Hassell, Michael Douglas, Karin Heap and Geoff Kitchen, who have given so much of their time and energy in driving forward Building Schools for the Future. As this group has fulfilled its single objective of shaping the Expression of Interest it does not intend to meet again. In the New Year we will think about how best to bring together the various groups looking at secondary school development to ensure that together with the Learning and Skills Council we have an effective and collaborative planning structure that can carry Building Schools for the Future forward within the broader remit of transforming secondary education. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself, David, Anna, Yvonne or Elaine if you have any queries or suggestions regarding Building Schools for the Future.

Building Schools for the Future is an extraordinary opportunity for all of us and we look forward to working with you, in making a real difference to all of Norfolk's secondary and special schools and PRUs.

Yours sincerely

Sue Rossiter
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - PROCUREMENT GROUPINGS

Group 1 Central Norfolk	
Costessey High	City of Norwich High
Earlham High	Earthsea House
Eaton Hall Special	Framingham Earl High
Greenwood Centre	Hall School Special
Harford Manor Special	Heartsease High
Hellesdon High	Hethersett High
Hewett High	Norwich Centre
Notre Dame High	Sprowston High
Taverham High	The Blyth Jex High
The Clare Special	The Parkside Special
Thorpe St Andrew High	Westwood Centre
Group 2 West Norfolk	
Alderman Jackson Special	Charles Burrell High
Downham High	Ethel Tipple Special
Hamonds High	King Edward VII High
King's Lynn Centre	Marshland High
Methwold High	Rosemary Musker High
Springwood High	Smithdon High
St Clements High	The Park High
Thetford Centre	Wayland High
Group 3 North Norfolk	
Acle High	Aylsham High
Alderman Peel High	Bawdeswell Centre
Broadland High	Brooklands High
Caister High	Cliff Park High
Cromer High	Fakenham High
Flegg High	Great Yarmouth High
John Grant Special	Lynn Grove High
North Walsham Centre	North Walsham High
Oriel High	Reepham High
Sheringham High	Sidestrand Hall Special
Stalham High	Woodfields Special
Group 4 South Norfolk	
Archbishop Sancroft	Attleborough High
Chapel Road Special	Diss High
Fred Nicholson Special	Hobart High
Litcham High	Long Stratton High
Neatherd High	Northgate High
Old Buckenham High	Wymondham College
Wymondham High	