



# THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP POOL NEWSLETTER

No 9

July 2003



*This Newsletter follows the last meeting of the BMPP Management Board on 10 July 2003.*

## **BMPP Budget reports**

By now all schools should have received their BMPP Budget Reports, which give details of payments and commitments to the end of the financial year March 03. We hope that the explanatory notes which accompanied the reports provide sufficient information for schools. Please could you check your report carefully, and inform the NPS Finance section if you have queries about any 'Journal' entries which you are unable to reconcile. These are entries marked 'J', and cover either:

- a) payments for planned maintenance contracts such as boiler servicing
- b) miscoding corrections, where the expenditure had originally been coded under the incorrect code

## **Audit of the spend at 3 schools**

Production of the reports has enabled overspend to be easily identified. The Board requested that a trial audit be carried out to check that schools' expenditure did fall within the remit of the BMPP. As a result two NPS personnel carried out an audit of spend at a primary school, a middle school, and a high school. All three schools had exceeded their 60% guaranteed spend:

School A – a small primary school, had achieved a 98% spend on its total premium, and had in effect been topped up by some £4,205 from the 'insurance' contingency element of the Fund. Major works undertaken at the school had included external redecoration and pre-painting repairs, and replacement of a boiler. All the spend fell within the BMPP remit.

School B – a middle school, had exceeded its 60% guaranteed spend by a huge 600%, some £173,215 from the 'insurance' element

***Some schools are not clear as to the Helpdesk hours – these are 8.00am to 4.30pm Mondays to Fridays. Ring free on 0800 0858592.***

of the fund. Major work rectifying structural problems had been required – work which the school could not possibly have afforded to pay for if it had not been a member of the BMPP. Again, all the spend fell within the BMPP remit.

School C – a high school with a huge element of need, had exceeded its guaranteed spend by 100%, and had been topped up by some £80,694 from the 'insurance' element of the Fund. Most of this expenditure was legitimate, but a few items such as internal redecoration in a classroom, extension of an electronic bell system, clearing of rubbish should have fallen within the school's own budget. Discussions are taking place with the LEA to recover the relevant monies for the Fund.

None of the schools seem to have made much use of the **NPS Helpdesk facility**. NPS are very anxious to encourage the use of the Helpdesk as this will free up building surveyors from spending time on routine day to day repairs. Please encourage your staff to use this facility – our Helpdesk operators are highly trained, friendly, knowledgeable, and there to help you.

Another aspect revealed by the audit was that NPS staff make some mistakes in coding invoices, and their performance in this respect needs to improve.

## **BMPP feedback questionnaire.**

We would like to thank all schools who were kind enough to complete and return the questionnaire at such short notice.

At the May meeting it was reported that some 146 questionnaires had been

returned, with 77% of these indicating a willingness to consider joining a new 5 year scheme, with 7% no, 16% undecided. The response indicated that schools feel the scheme offered value for money and sufficient support in meeting building maintenance responsibilities, with 86% satisfaction with the Helpdesk facility. A majority said no or were undecided to the proposal to raise the guaranteed spend to 80% with school and BMPP sharing the remaining 20% 'risk' element on a 50/50 basis. Schools were concerned that their formula capital grant might already be allocated for capital projects. Since the last meeting, a further 35 responses have been received, which are in line with those previously reported.

### **BMPP Successor Scheme**

The Board have discussed at length the various options for a future Scheme. The Option document will be included in the LEA Autumn Consultation to schools, with responses required back from schools by early December. The Board will evaluate schools' responses, make recommendations to Education, for a Scheme to be firmed up and circulated to schools in January 2004. Schools affected by the Gt Yarmouth PFI will already know before the consultation document goes out, whether they are committing to the PFI.

### **Minutes and Newsletters are available on the NCC Easinet site**

Board members have asked that public minutes of their meetings, and previous editions of the Newsletter are made available electronically to schools and governors. We will continue to send out the Newsletter in its paper format, but you can also view these documents, and minutes of recent meetings by looking on the NCC Easinet, under:

*School Management : Managers and Administration: School Buildings: Building Maintenance Partnership Pool*

As you will appreciate, we have omitted the names of specific schools from the published version of the minutes.

### **Contact names**

The next meeting of the BMPP Board will be held on Monday 15 September 2003. If you have any comments or concerns which you would like taken to the next meeting, please contact one of the delegates:

#### **NASH delegates**

Paul Mitchell – Head  
Aylsham High School  
01263 733270

Brian Pearce - Chair of Govs  
Archbishop Sancroft High  
01986 788657

#### **SNAPP delegates**

Mr Dominic Cragoe - Head  
Sheringham Primary  
01263 823848

Mrs Carolyn Howard - Head  
Tilney St Lawrence Primary  
01945 880405

Mrs Catherine Whalen - Head  
Mousehold First  
01603 427012

Ms Mary Ann Massey - Head  
Sprowston Middle  
01603 425150

#### **Special Schools delegate:**

Mr Malcolm Clayton - Head  
Fred Nicholson School  
01362 693915

#### **Norfolk Governors Network:**

Mr Christopher Gillett -High Schools  
01485 525358

Mr Peter Rout -Primary Schools  
01508 483830

#### **Diocesan Board:**

Mr Gerald Ward  
01603 881352