



NORFOLK SCHOOLS PFI NEWSLETTER

Issue 16 – September 2002

FINAL INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE

The final ITN issued to Bidders this week is mainly unchanged from the June draft. One significant change is to extend the bid return date from 19/12/02 to 24/02/03. Important dates for schools are now:

Bidders work with schools	Sep-Dec 2002
Bidders present to schools	Jan-Feb 2003
ITN Bid Return	24 Feb 2003
Evaluation of ITN Bids	Mar-Apr 2003
School decisions on PFI	Jun-Jul 2003
Signing of Contracts	Dec 2003
Services start (all schools)	Jan 2004
Building work (phased)	2004-2006

An ITN summary will be sent to all schools potentially in the project. The full version is on the website (see address below).

CONFERENCE 15TH OCTOBER 2002

This day conference will be open to up to three delegates from each potential PFI school. The conference will be split into separate half days for the two Bidders, Jarvis and Alpha Schools. This will be an opportunity both for Bidders to present themselves to schools and for schools to seek answers as to how each Bidder intends to operate and about their PFI experience.

It is intended that there will be workshops on:-

- ◆ Caretaking, Cleaning & Grounds Maintenance
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Contract Monitoring
- ◆ Process Management
- ◆ Secondary School Issues (covering any of above)

A letter giving further details will be sent to schools shortly.

THE BIDDERS' VISITS – WHAT NEXT?

The Bidders will have a lot of information at their disposal from:-

- ◆ The Invitation To Negotiate
- ◆ Recent surveys of schools
- ◆ Vision Statements from schools
- ◆ Information gathered from their visit

The individual Bidders are likely to revisit schools during the Autumn term to gain further information and to discuss their developing proposals. They have been asked to arrange visits through the PFI office. An LEA officer can be present at these visits if schools request this.

During the Spring term each Bidder will wish to visit each school again to formally present their proposals for that school.

EVALUATING THE BIDS

Although the ITN Bid return date is not until 24/02/03, specific proposals for each school will be completed ahead of this. Hence the formal presentations by Bidders in the Spring, which will form part of the evaluation process.

The LEA's PFI Project Team (including school representatives) will evaluate all aspects of bids. The LEA team will allocate 50% of marks for individual school proposals. Schools will allocate the other 50% directly.

This is thus a crucial process and schools need to plan who will be involved in the evaluation and when/how this will be carried out. Further details of the evaluation procedure, and of opportunities for training workshops for staff and governors, will be provided later this term.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Esinet

PFI information is on both the schools Esinet and the public website at www.esinet.norfolk.gov.uk/pfi. The Frequently Asked Questions document gives a number of sources for further information. Suggestions would be welcome for additional information that could usefully be added to the website.

If you would like any further information about PFI please contact:

Matthew Rathbone (tel: 01603 222469; e-mail: matthew.rathbone.edu@norfolk.gov.uk)

NORFOLK SCHOOLS PFI CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Given below are extracts from notes of the last meeting on 10 July 2002

Progress of project

- Initial discussions have taken place with both short-listed bidders. The consultative group will continue to get notes of meetings with bidders in future.
- Feedback on visits to schools this term was generally positive. Some schools are still sceptical about the project, but are willing to listen to what bidders can offer.

Invitation to Negotiate

- Summary of draft ITN has gone to all schools and detailed documents are on the website.
- Schools have been asked specifically to check the proposed capacity figures. If there are any further changes to reorganisation proposals these will be reflected in changes in the ITN.

Engaging schools

- Agreed that it was important bidders talked closely with schools while developing designs. The initial joint bidder visits to schools will be followed up by individual visits.
- A letter will be sent to schools during the holidays saying in more detail what information the bidders will want from the initial visit.
- Suggested that open meetings are held early next term to provide an opportunity to schools to prepare for their initial bidder visit. LEA officers will also try to be available if required on an individual basis to help schools focus their ideas.

School contributions to cost of PFI project

- Agreed that we should be developing proposals for distributing costs on a per pupil rather than historical spend basis. Aim to get initial proposals out to schools by early November and final proposals out by the time of the ITN bid return.
- Also noted that we need to tell schools at ITN bid return of the expected future of formula capital. Current position of DfES appears to have softened and there is now a reasonable prospect that formula capital will continue unaffected by PFI.

Informing parents about PFI

- Agreed it would be helpful to provide a model letter that schools could use to tell parents more about PFI. This could include a summary of information already given to governing bodies. Particular points to include: design development, timescale, review, provision of services and control of premises.

Full service schools

- Noted the EAZ plans to enhance the role of schools in the community. How best to reflect this in the PFI requirements to be explored.

Bid evaluation

- Noted that evaluation of very complex bids will not be easy. There is a need to confirm who will be on the evaluation group drawn from the existing consultative group and if necessary to provide some training both for this group and for schools generally.

Next meeting is 6.00 pm on Tuesday 1/10/02 at County Hall.

People that are not members of the group may still attend the meeting. Anyone interested should contact Ralph Masterson on 01603 223411.