

THE EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND LIBRARIES

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE	FOR INFORMATION	
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>To provide the Executive with information about the Expression of Interest that has been made seeking resources from Central Government to support development of the secondary school building stock. This funding is a commitment by the Government to a programme of re-building and renewal to ensure that secondary education has facilities of 21st century standards. It is a national scheme in its formative stages and there will be some significant dialogue with DfES officials before we are able to move forward. The Expression of Interest is designed to be a high level document in order to inform the DfES about the sort of level of investment which Barking and Dagenham would like to see in its school building stock for secondary age pupils. At this stage no commitments are being made.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Executive is asked to support the content of the report and the main body of the bid. It is intended that significant funds are being pursued to further improvements in the future at existing secondary schools and Trinity Special School, with the exception of the Jo Richardson Community School.</p> <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>The Executive needs to consider this report as it is part of an investment strategy to support the capital programme for future provision.</p>		
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Executive received a report at its meeting on 7 October 2003 (*Minute No. 133*) concerning Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and advising that all local authorities had been invited to submit Expressions of Interest to support the development of secondary school provision. Where appropriate this would include Special Schools.

1.2 The strategy employed by the Government through BSF will mean significant investment in all of the country's secondary schools over a 10-15 year period. The aim will be to provide learning environments compatible with 21st century education and outcomes that support improvements in achievement. This investment can of course only be achieved if the Government makes funding available and the Council is able to support such investment.

2. Consultation

2.1 As part of the process of compiling an Expression of Interest to the DfES, consultation took place with all Headteachers of secondary schools in order that we could put forward a bid, which was cohesive and agreed.

2.2 Regrettably, the timescale for the submission did not allow for a wider consultation, although subsequent to the submission we have been able to circulate information to interested parties.

3. Compilation of the Bid

3.1 A group of officers within the department have collated the Expression of Interest as a result of the consultation and all secondary schools have been able to contribute an expected outcome in terms of achievement through a range of investment opportunities. This is an exciting development specifically relating buildings to educational achievements.

3.2 The information that was gathered has identified the need to replace a number of school buildings if we are to respond in designing schools which allow the Council's pedagogy to be implemented in full. The Executive will know, through the design development of the Jo Richardson Community School, that there is an implication for larger rooms if we are following the pedagogy strictly.

3.3 As would be expected, if buildings are to be replaced in some significant format, the costs are likely to run into hundreds of millions of pounds and at this stage, our bid is for just over £200m. If this is multiplied across the country, it will be evident that the bill runs into many billions of pounds. The Government will need to consider carefully how it intends to allow authorities to move forward in respect of this programme.

3.4 An extract from the bid is attached as Annex A. A full copy of the bid can be seen by contacting the author of this report.

Background papers:

- DfES document: Building Schools for the Future: Guidance for Local Education Authorities - July 2003