

29 March 2004

**Partnerships for Schools
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Dear Colleague

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Local Education Partnerships (LEP)

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a major new Government programme to rebuild and renew Secondary Schools in all parts of England. The aim is to deliver a programme of investment in high standard facilities for every secondary school pupil within 10 to 15 years from 2005/06, subject to future public spending decisions. The programme will be based on local plans to transform educational performance. Capital investment on the scale now available – with over £5bn available from 2005/06, with over £2bn committed to BSF - can make a major contribution to such transformation.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is being set up by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Partnerships UK (PUK), to implement and deliver the BSF programme. To achieve the aims of this ambitious new programme, a more strategic approach to implementation of local investment will be needed. The LEP model has been developed to achieve that purpose. The documentation we are now making available describes how the LEP model can meet the objectives of the BSF programme, and how we believe it can work financially, commercially and legally. Crucially, it also describes how it can be flexible and responsive to the varying local circumstances in which schools investment programmes will be delivered.

We are seeking your views on the LEP model, to help inform its further development, and crucially to help answer the key questions

- whether it will meet the objectives of the BSF programme, at a national and local level
- whether it will deliver good VFM solutions that meet the aspirations of local communities
- whether it is commercially deliverable for the private sector partners who will need to bring their capacity and expertise to bear if the programme is to deliver the potential benefits

We hope you will give the attached documentation your fullest consideration, and provide feedback as set out in the introduction – and we look forward to working with you in future to develop this exciting and important programme.

Yours sincerely

David Goldstone
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Partnerships for Schools

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