



**STANDING GROUP FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
EDUCATION BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2005
IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

Present: Shirley Turner (Chair), Keith Armstead, Ray Baker, Janice Beck, Tony Blackman, Chris Borderick, , Bob Dutton, Doug Elliott, Chris Gilbert, Jo Humphries, Clare Medland, Ged Mitchell, Graham Olway, Penny Pennington (Secretary), Norrie Porter, Gareth Simmons

Apologies: Geoff Black, Greg Durkin

Circulation: All above plus Tony Palmer

	ACTION
<p>1. <u>Notes of meeting held on 24th November 2004</u></p> <p>1.1. Mark Dolling had been present at the meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Debrief/Update</u></p> <p>2.1. <u>SCSC Group</u></p> <p>ST & CB updated on a meeting held 4th February 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 to 19 White Paper is now published• TCF papers also published – note tight deadline [post meeting note: deadline slipped into May] <p>2.2. <u>RIBA Schools Client Forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting held at Mosbourne Academy (Richard Rogers Design; replacement school for Hackney Downs). Concern expressed about the design and layout of the school. [Post meeting note: Educational press reports similar views amongst educationalists however, school being considered for RIBA award]• Due to new Government policy, Surestart centres will now have to be reviewed in terms of Children’s Centres specification• The group had a presentation from Aedas Access Consultancy re. disabled access – who were challenged about the content of their presentation (re. assertion that LEAs were doing nothing about disabled access).• It was agreed that Ray Baker, Mark Dolling, Ged Mitchell and Shirley Turner should be the representatives on the RIBA group. The Conference to be held in June (firm date to be announced) is open to all.	

2.3. VA Working Group

KA and JH reported the following:

- VA DFC to be devolved directly to schools from 2006/7 – queries re. how LEAs can act as broker for LCVAP and operate clustering. Schools will be required to submit report at year end on their capital expenditure.
- VA DFC is £80M over-committed until 2006/7 which is causing a problem in 2005/6 such that only one year can be drawn down.
- Discussion at meeting re. how VA schools will be delivered through BSF and PFI. [Post meeting note: Waves 1 to 3 LEAs have been told that VA schools will be 100% funded in BSF Waves 1 to 3]
- Long standing insurance issue is not yet resolved.

It was agreed that Chris Gilbert will replace Jo Humphries as representative on this group.

2.4. DfES Design Unit Stakeholders

ST reported that this group is looking at the options for how the Unit will function and the services it will offer.

3. Prudential Borrowing (PB)

Gareth Simmons reported that the DfES has suggested considering the use of Prudential Code (PC) for rationalising primary schools. However, Plymouth's calculations show the PC provides a disincentive to rationalisation! GS agreed to share the models which evidenced this.

KA reported that Dorset will be using £30M PB for each of the next 10 years to redevelop primary schools. Schools will input 5 years of DFC plus some Repairs and Maintenance funding. An SLA will be developed for schools to measure what they will be receiving.

4. BSF Feedback from LA strategy meetings with DfES

The DfES meetings with later Wave LAs have commenced with variable experiences reported.

A list of which LA is in which wave is on the BSF website.

5. Children Act/Integrated Children's Services

Representatives outlined how each of their LEA's is being transformed into Children's Services Authorities.

CG

GS

<p>6. <u>VAT Issues</u></p> <p>Some LAs are close to reaching the “VAT exemption ceiling” for non-statutory provision. ST would like information on how this is affecting LAs so that she can discuss with DfES.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>7. <u>DfES Focus Group</u></p> <p>The group discussed how the Focus Group, the AMP Group and Regional Seminars might operate in future. Proposals to be brought to the Conference in May.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p>8. <u>Standing Group</u></p> <p>EBD OG is now recognised as the major communication and consultation forum between DfES and LEAs. MD, GM & RB to put together a model to further develop this and to establish protocols.</p>	<p>MD, GM, RB</p>
<p>9. <u>Conferences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/12/13 May 2005 – Gatwick – GO discussed the proposed agenda and format. • 2/3/4 Nov 2005 – Blackpool – JB reported on proposals being developed in Blackpool 	
<p>10. <u>AOB</u></p> <p>As this was Jo Humphries last meeting before her retirement, Jo was thanked for her commitment and involvement and presented with a token of appreciation from the group.</p> <p>Norrie Porter will represent Shropshire on the Standing Group in future.</p>	
<p>11. <u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>11 May, 4.00pm, Gatwick, Meridian Hotel</p>	