

EDUCATION BUILDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING GROUP HELD ON 14 MAY 2003 AT THE RAMADA HOTEL, CHESTER

Present: Keith Armstead, Ray Baker, Geoff Black, Janice Beck, Tony Blackman, Chris Borderick, Gregg Durkin, Bob Dutton, Doug Elliott, Chris Gilbert, Jo Humphreys, Ged Mitchell, John Proctor, Shirley Turner, Tim Wear, Tony Palmer, Peter Foale, Jeff Fletcher, Penny Pennington

Apologies: Clare Medland

Circulation:

	ACTION
<p>1. Notes of the meeting held on 19 March 2003</p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
<p>2. Matters arising</p>	
<p>2.1 <u>School Organisation Plans and Committees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SI laid before Parliament 9 May and enacted as of 1 June 2003. SI 1200 = Additional Secondary School proposals SI 1201 = School Organisation Plans SI 1229 = School Organisation Proposals <p>See www.hmsso.gov.uk to download.</p>	
<p>3. Schools Capital Strategy Consultative Group</p> <p>ST reported back on headlines from the recent meeting attended by ST, JB, CB. The main points discussed were:</p>	
<p>3.1 <u>Building Schools for the Future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested that further consultation is needed on clarification of how BSF might be implemented.• Announcement of the first round of LEAs by the end of March 2004.• Potential for larger number of LEAs being included – in particular those with capital strategies in place who can also deliver and where there is capacity in local construction sector.• Suggested 'banding' of LEAs so that LEAs have an idea of which tranche they may be in.• Pilots could be a range of types of LEAs with a range of projects.• Queries re How a National Procurement Vehicle and Local AMPs were compatible.	

3.2 Basic Need

- The consultation exercise had revealed 60% of respondents in favour of the use of pupil forecasts from LEAs.
- Models 3 and 4 were most favoured.
- The base for assessment could be SPR data plus Net Capacity info plus projected numbers to 2006.
- BN allocation for 2004/5 to be partly on pupil numbers and partly on forecasts.
- Any cases where formula BN was inadequate then TCF bids could be used for 'top-up'.
- Query re VA BN and whether LCVAP or TCF would be used for 'top-up'.
- Regional variation in weighting of BN funding is likely to be removed.
- Pls to be honoured.
- Post-16 BN to operate as now.
- BN to be allocated through Single Capital Pot (SCP) – concern re potential for Council's to divert this out of Education.

3.3 TCF

- Next TCF round likely to have similar policy guidance to last with addition of new priority on delivery of National Curriculum in Science and Technology. Also, potentially, new criteria on raising standards in the primary sector.
- TCF bids – guidance in July, bids by end October, announcement in January.
- Potential BN 'top-up' through TCF route (additional to max 3 each for LEA and VA sectors) if your BN formula does not cover the need to provide a whole primary school of 210 or more or secondary of 900 or more.

3.4 Good Practice and LEAs in need of support

- EBDOG website available for posting information in support of all LEAs. Links to other networks.
- Audit Commission seeking to better co-ordinate with Ofsted and embed AMPs at school level.
- Future rounds of data collection – may be a single data set for a single education plan.
- sbdu outreach work could concentrate efforts with small LEAs and/or those in need of assistance.
- DfES has responded to Audit Commission report 'Improving School Buildings' EBDOG to request copy of this.

<p>3.5 <u>Exemplar Designs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemplar sites have been selected – locations not known by members of group. • Filter and selection process currently underway for architects. • Interest expressed in the brief given to the architects. [Post meeting note: information on this provided in presentation at the Conference.] <p>4. <u>AMPs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ST and other LEAs had met with DfES to brainstorm “the future of AMPs”. • For 2004/5 appraisal, the LPS and Statement of Priorities (STOPS) required in November. • List of Priority schemes required in July but this may also move to tie in with the production of (STOPS). <p>5. NOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues raised re: the bureaucracy of the process and Sport England’s over enthusiastic interventions. • Some colleagues felt that the effort having to be expended on NOF was diverting officer time away from core Education duties. • Other funding allocations were being put at risk because of the delays. • Agreed that Conference be asked if a further representation should be made to Stephen Dunmore (Chief Executive of NOF). [Post meeting note: action endorsed by Conference.] <p>6. VA Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB reported that the main outstanding issue is to carry out a post implementation review. • Further guidance likely on Insurance. • Experience of some Diocese is that the costings identified to repair excepted building problems is proving inadequate at tender. Query re how the shortfalls will be dealt with? If LCVAP then that is 90% rather than the 100% for excepted buildings allocations. <p>7. RIBA Schools Client Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last meeting not attended by EBD OG. Likely that Sport England will be in attendance at next meeting (10am 17 September @ RIBA). Conference to be urged to attend. 	<p>ST</p>
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<p>8. The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention was drawn to an item in the regulations concerning the thermal efficiency of workplaces and the possible implications for educational establishments. <p>9. Standing Group Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CG tabled a map and list showing representation of EBD OG on the Standing Group. • Conference to be asked to complete questionnaire on local groups to give a better picture of regional support mechanisms. <p>10. Playing Field or Public Open Space Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent PPG17 suggests that private open space such as school playing fields will count in the assessment of open space in an area. • School playing fields may now count as greenfield rather than brownfield. • If school playing fields are to be redeveloped then there must be evidence of public support – query re who would undertake the consultation. • TB (as a former Planning Officer) offered to give advice on these issues. <p>11. Section 106</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BD reported that Leicestershire use a minimum of a 10 house development to request Section 106 contribution. This brings in about £10-15K. Developers are querying whether this is going to be used to provide additional places. • Shropshire operate a 20 house minimum. • Brent seek Section 106 for all developments and use it as an “education contribution which supports the overall capital programme”. • Kent use a 2/3 mile radius and pool the money within that area, as the children would have to attend a school somewhere within the area. <p>12. May 2003 Conference – Cheshire</p> <p>RB ran through the highlights of organising the Conference. He is assembling a ‘Conference Organisers Pack’ to pass on to Manchester. 185 delegates attending on Thursday (thought to be the largest number thus far).</p> <p>The survey of preferences for the Friday am session indicated most in favour of school visits. 40 delegates to participate.</p>	<p>CG</p>
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<p>13. Manchester – November 2003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM seeking to arrange presentations on the Exemplar designs on the Friday am. • Contact to be made with Welsh authorities to encourage their attendance and sharing of developments. Work on extended schools thought to be more advanced. <p>14. Any Other Business</p> <p>14.1 Net Capacities – advice sought on how to deal with problem of very large dual use sports halls (Bolton).</p> <p>14.2 Kent – is being reorganised into an area basis with most functions localised into 23 clusters. Each cluster of 20 or so schools will establish Boards to run the functions. Core functions such as strategic planning to be retained centrally.</p> <p>15. Future Conferences</p> <p>May 2004 – Volunteer LEA needed Nov 2004 – West Sussex May 2004 – Volunteer LEA needed</p> <p>16. Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 22 September 2004 – 11am-2pm in Northamptonshire</p>	<p>CB</p>
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