

3. Building Schools for the Future

- Wave 1 – LEAs were announced on 12 February. General view was that deprivation, together with the need for an LEA to raise standards and its capacity to deliver capital projects were the principle criteria for selection of LEAs.
- PP explained the Pathfinder experience and the issues currently under development, the most prominent being the nature of the LEP and affordability.
- PWC are running a series of conferences on BSF issues – fliers have been sent to Chief Officers.

4. AMPs

- Concern over the inconsistency of suitability appraisal grading was discussed. Individual LEAs and groups have raised with DfES.
- The general consensus was that AMPs would still be required when SEPs introduced.

5. Schools Client Forum

ST and CB have represented the group at two meetings.

- In December presentations from Sport England and NOF were made.
- In March, a Sports Facilities provider, Swim25, presented information in their basic swimming pool package (25m at a cost of £2M). They also provide the capital funding which results in 'rent' of £18K per month.
- Integer is a company which provides support to schools in terms of using a building project as a resource for the curriculum.
- The Association for Science Education is providing a CD ROM (Laboratory Design for Teaching and Learning) with a drawing tool for designing science labs (£5 handling charge) – www.ase.org.uk
- The forum is holding a conference at the Institute of Education on 16 June at which the new BB77 guidance is likely to be discussed.

6. TCF

- Feedback from DfES on non-successful bids is available if requested.

7. Building Bulletins

- BB82 is being replaced as follows:

BB98 Secondary Sector (area guidelines) will be on website in April
BB99 Primary Sector (area guidelines) draft likely in April on website

Additionally, an 'architects handbook' will follow to provide supplementary detail to BB98 and 99.

- BB77 draft is in production and should be available for consultation in April/May. The results of the research used to prepare BB77 is already on the website.
- BB80 Science (revised 2004) is now on website
- Manchester is being consulted on the usefulness of BBs and other advice/guidance provided by sbdu. Other LEAs may also be approached.

- Sheffield reported on the proposed introduction of SmartWater to schools to stem the tide of ICT equipment theft. It is a paint-on marker with unique identification being recommended by South Yorkshire Police force. (Cost approximately £50 per school per annum). www.smartwater.com
- The use of Sound Field Systems was discussed. Some LEAs now providing them as standard to help the hearing impaired, prevent loss of concentration and resultant behaviour problems. (Cost approximately £1K per classroom).

8. Conferences

Thanks expressed to Ged and colleagues in Manchester for the conference in November.

May '04, Plymouth (Moat House, 13/14 May) – Janice Beck has been commissioned to assist in the organisation of this. Fliers have already gone to LEAs. The format has been determined and it was agreed that the BSF slot should comprise:

JB

Presentation on the process	PfS	15 mins
LEPs	Pathfinders	15 mins
Educational vision	Pathfinders	15 mins
Financial issues	Pathfinders	15 mins
Q & A		25 mins

Nov '04 – Gloucestershire – can no longer commit to this due to inadequate supply of hotel rooms, therefore other host LEA sought. Janice Beck to research potential venues and approach LEAs

JB

May '05 – West Sussex

Nov '05 – South Gloucestershire

9. Any Other Business

- JH reported that the Basic Need cost multipliers for 2004/5 are:

Primary	£8,299
Secondary	£11,696
Post-16	£13,799

- BD reported that Becta offer free seminars on “Visioning the Learning Environment” at the British Library.
- JH had received information from DfES that new build special school costs should be £2040 per m² and refurbishments £1070 per m².
- Manchester now passing responsibility for roof replacement, boilers and other repairs to schools. LEA retains a small amount for schools to bid for.
- Surrey funds major condition items centrally but school required to commit 50% of the cost from DFC. Shropshire operates an “at least 20% DFC contribution” system.
- If Barnet is to carry out a scheme then it expects 100% of DFC to be committed in the year the work is undertaken.

10. Next Meeting

The next Standing Group meeting will be held on Thursday 12 May, 4pm in Plymouth.