



**EBD OG Standing Group**  
**23 March 2006**  
**Leicestershire**

**Present:** Shirley Turner (Chair), Andrew George, Clare Medland, Keith Armstead, Geoff Black, Greg Durkin, Graham Olway, Norrie Porter, Tony Blackman, Mark Dolling, Chris Borderick, Gareth Simmons, Chris Gilbert, Ged Mitchell, Ray Baker, Penny Pennington (Secretary), Janice Beck

In attendance: Ian Cook

**Apologies:** Doug Elliot, Tony Palmer, Bob Dutton, Digby Molden

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Shirley welcomed all to the meeting and thanked colleagues for the bouquet of flowers sent to wish her well through her recent illness.</p> <p>Ian Cook of Pillar Consultancy was welcomed also – his attendance is at the request of the DfES as part of the desire to develop closer linkages between the various nationally organised groups. Ian currently organising the School Building Network regional seminars on behalf of DfES.</p> <p>Bob Dutton and colleagues in Leicestershire were thanked for the generous hosting of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Notes of meeting held on November 2005</b></p> <p>These were accepted. The only matter arising was a comment that the TCF feedback received from DfES was not found to be very helpful by a number of Authorities.</p>	
<p><b>3. Feedback from various consultative groups</b></p> <p><b>Schools Capital Strategy Consultative Group</b> ST and CB provided papers and reported on key areas of interest.</p> <p><b>VA Working Group</b> CG reported that DFC is to be passported to VA schools in 2 payments p.a. Each Diocese will have a potential role in pooling in order to create 'bringing forward' opportunities for individual schools. David Fewster of DfES had written to VA schools in February 2006 explaining the new arrangements. A query was</p>	

<p>raised on whether schools could hold DFC for 3 or 4 year period.</p> <p><b>Children’s Services Communication Group</b>  Representatives outlined discussions held in this group which had been established to propose effective ways of communicating with DfES across and within the various groups and networks. Sally Brooks has stated that she will promote EBD OG events in her team’s future correspondence. A plan of the events in which EBD OG are involved to be posted on the website.</p>	<p>ST to clarify</p>
<p><b>School Building Network</b>  Representatives reported back from the regional events which are organised by Pillar on behalf of the DfES. Suggestions for improvements, such as clearer terms of reference for speakers, were made.</p>	<p>Ian Cook</p>
<p><b>4. Draft Constitution</b></p> <p>Lengthy discussion on the draft constitution resulted in its agreement in most part with recommendations to be made to Conference that it be adopted from May 06 and then further work is undertaken over the subsequent year to establish the election methodology. RB and TB were thanked for their work on this. RB to revise as agreed and circulate the final draft.</p> <p>The EBD OG name is to be retained because of its significant value as a known and respected entity and because the key focus of the work relates to school buildings.</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p><b>5. Communication with LAs</b></p> <p>LAs seem to being bombarded by invites to conferences, some of which conflict with EBD OG supported events either in timing, content or cost e.g. the primary capital conference being organised by Govnet 2 weeks after EBD OG’s. ST to follow up with DfES.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p><b>6. Children’s Services</b></p> <p>Most LAs now in the throes of transformation. This item no longer to feature as standing item on the agenda.</p>	
<p><b>7. Primary Capital</b></p> <p>The DfES has commenced a consultation process with the publication of a booklet. The EBD OG conference in May to be part of their consultation. Comments on the document to be sent to ST for collation into an EBD OG response.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>8. BRE Ventures</b></p> <p>ST presented a paper from BRE re LA Best Practice in School Construction – in particular proposals to research this in order to set up a platform for trading knowledge amongst LAs.</p>	

<p>The proposals were agreed in principle and the BRE representative to be invited to the next meeting to further exploration.</p>	<p>ST</p>
<p><b>9. Post Occupancy Evaluation</b></p>	
<p>BD to collate practice amongst LAs – representatives to forward to him.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>10. BSF</b></p>	
<p>Wave One Authority Representatives provided a brief update on the programme.</p>	
<p>‘One school pilot’ representatives have to make their submissions by the end of March but are being dealt with in a light touch approach by DfES.</p>	
<p><b>11. Planning Gain</b></p>	
<p>Individual LAs have responded to Government proposals to exclude Education from Section 106 provision.</p>	
<p><b>12. Supported Borrowing vs Grant for floor Authorities</b></p>	
<p>Significant black holes appearing in some LAs which have received supported borrowing for major education programmes. Some have cancelled their new starts Modernisation projects because the affordability gaps are unmanageable. Dialogue with the DfES continues.</p>	
<p><b>13. School Organisation Consultation by email</b></p>	
<p>Consultation by DfES on School Organisation commenced on 14 February. This is in relation to the 2005 legislation and not the White Paper proposals. Responses due by 8 May.</p>	
<p><b>14. Approaches by Consultants</b></p>	
<p>It was agreed that consultants making approaches to EBD OG representatives should be pointed to the next conference for their sponsorship.</p>	
<p><b>15. Building Futures Journal</b></p>	
<p>The new Journal should be published shortly. Tony Palmer, who acted as co-ordinator, was thanked for his input.</p>	
<p><b>16. Conferences</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew George of Staffordshire outlined the programme for the May 06 conference at Alton Towers. He was thanked by the group for his work on this.</li> </ul>	

- 23 & 24 November 2006 – Milton Keynes – venue and speakers are organised. Fliers imminent.
- May 2007 – Northamptonshire
- November 2007 – Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Groups in Harrogate

**17. A.O.B.**

A science and innovation investment framework has been posted on the DTI website. However, no funding has been identified.

**18. Future Meetings**

4 pm 3 May 2006 – Staffordshire

28 September 2006 @ 11.00am – Leicestershire

22 November 2006 – Milton Keynes