

Area Review Background

Primary Capital Programme

The Primary Capital Programme (PCP) was first announced by the Department in 2005. The programme commits to radically refurbishing or rebuilding up to half of the primary school estate nationally by 2022/23. The aim is to create primary schools that are equipped for 21st century teaching and learning and are at the heart of their communities, with Children's Services in reach of every family.

The PCP requires local authorities to take a long-term strategic approach to capital investment and to transform teaching and learning in primary schools, with the Children's Plan at its heart. It challenges local authorities to be more ambitious in considering new models of leadership and organisation, including more collaborative working through federations and trust schools, as well as amalgamations and rationalisation in order to maximise quality of provision.

In order to enter the programme, local authorities were required to submit a Strategy for Change for the DCSF's approval. On 11 November 2008 the Department confirmed that Devon's was one of only 41 (out of 150) LA's nationally to receive unconditional approval (Devon's Strategy for Change together with details of the PCP process are available on the following link:

www.devon.gov.uk/cypstrategicplanning).

Within Devon's Strategy for Change, the Local Authority has committed to undertake countywide Area Reviews. The review process recognises the need to undertake consultation with a range of stakeholders, including those agencies that contribute to wider children's services.

Building Schools for the Future

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a long-term programme of investment and change in England that will help transform education for secondary age students by providing 21st century learning environments that engage and inspire young people, their teachers and the wider community.

The programme creates an important opportunity to transform the way secondary and special schools function, developing buildings for the 21st century with teaching and learning to match. In addition, secondary schools provide a major resource for local communities, and as such, the new and refurbished facilities delivered by BSF are being designed for shared community use wherever appropriate. In line with the "Every Child Matters" agenda, every BSF school will be an extended school, offering additional or dual use facilities, such as sport halls, libraries, nurseries and ICT resources.

Local Authorities were invited to submit revised Expressions of Interest to join the programme in November 2008. Based on the submissions, a number of Local Authorities, including Devon, have been asked to submit a further bid demonstrating its 'Readiness to Deliver' to join the main BSF programme. It is anticipated that Devon will submit the bid in the Autumn 2009.