

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Academy An independent school funded by government. No fees are charged to students. Private sponsor may appoint governors. Governing body controls admissions. School does not have to follow national curriculum or national agreements on staff terms and conditions.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) A large-scale national funding programme aimed at rebuilding or remodelling all secondary schools (including VA schools, special schools and PRUs for secondary-age pupils) over about fifteen years. Sixth forms in schools are included, but separate sixth form centres are not (nor are primary schools.) Accommodation for shared use (extended schools) can be included, but no funding for exclusively non-school facilities.

BSF areas Geographical areas that receive BSF funding. These may be a whole local authority area, part of it, or a cross-border area. Stockton-on-Tees has two BSF areas, Stockton town (called group 2), and Billingham-Thornaby-Ingleby Barwick-Yarm-Eaglescliffe (group 1).

BSF waves In 2004 DfES ranked all the BSF areas in priority order by GCSE results and entitlement to free school meals. Each year from 2005-06 a wave of 10 to 20 areas starts to receive BSF funding. Waves 1-3 are known, but all other areas know only that they lie in a band of three waves. Our group 2 area is in waves 4-6, group 1 in waves 10-12.

Building Bulletin 98 DfES guidance document giving recommended floor areas and other standards for secondary school buildings according to range of pupil numbers, age range etc. BSF Funding allocations are based on meeting BB98 standards for the number of students projected ten years ahead.

Community School Previously known as a County school, the land and buildings are owned by the Council. Governors include LA representatives as well as parents, staff and co-opted community members. LA controls admissions and funds running costs through the delegated budget.

Competitive Dialogue A lengthy negotiating process (prescribed by EU procurement rules) for choosing a preferred bidder from a short list.

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Government department (previously the Department for Education and Skills) responsible for national policy for children's services. Final decisions on all BSF matters are taken by DCSF ministers.

Design and Build (D&B) Construction contract that effectively ends when the completed building is handed over.

Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) Contract includes providing a building and operating a service in it for a defined period.

Facilities Management (FM) Services such as life-cycle maintenance, cleaning, caretaking, catering provided under contract. FM is normally part of a PFI contract but may also be provided for existing buildings.

Foundation School (Trust School) A school supported by an external Foundation or Trust (often a charity). The Foundation appoints some of the governors and controls admissions, but the school is still maintained by the local authority (delegated budget) and must follow the national curriculum. Any existing school can opt to acquire a Foundation.

Local Education Partnership (LEP) A company jointly owned by the local authority (10% share), Partnerships for Schools (10%) and a private-sector partner (80%) to deliver a local BSF programme by arranging and managing contracts.

Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) A forerunner to BSF in the NHS, taken as a model for the LEP.

National Framework for Design and Build A list of Government-approved private-sector companies, potential partners as an alternative to the LEP for small projects.

Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC) A government agency with a remit to promote diversity in the range of types of school, widen access to popular schools, and increase choice for parents. No BSF funding is released without OSC approval.

Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) Publication carrying invitations to tender for contracts. Under EU procurement rules, all contracts in EU countries worth more than about £4 million must be advertised in the OJEU.

Outline Business Case (OBC) Document defining the scope and objectives of a project in some detail for “taking to market” in OJEU notice. Will later be developed into a Detailed Business Case.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) Organisation backed by the DfES to deliver the national BSF programme (and now the academies programme too). A regional contact will be nominated to support when we enter BSF. No BSF funding is released without PfS approval.

Primary Capital Programme (PCP) BSF for primary schools but on a smaller scale. Starting in 2009-10, every LA should receive additional capital aimed at replacing or remodelling about half of all primary schools over fifteen years. Money could be pooled with BSF for all-age or co-located schools.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI) A local authority rents a new building (and usually FM service) from a contractor for 25 or 30 years. Builder funds construction by borrowing from banks, secured by Government support for the rent (although this never covers the full cost – the LA has to bridge the “affordability gap.”)

Project Review Group (PRG) Treasury committee that must approve every PFI project before Government funding support is committed.

Public Private Partnerships Programme (4Ps) An agency of the Local Government Association offering free support, training and review services to local BSF programmes (project teams, senior managers, Council members.)

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) Special unit for pupils not attending school (e.g. excluded pupils, pregnant schoolgirls).

Strategy for Change Document drawn up by the LA and stakeholders for submission to PfS setting out how BSF will transform education (and other services) in the area. Previously known as Education Vision, but that title too limiting in context of integrated services.

Voluntary Aided (VA) School Church of England or Roman Catholic school. Buildings are owned by the diocese, which appoints some of the governors. Governing body controls admissions. Running costs of VA schools are funded by local authority in the same way as community schools. Capital work at VA schools usually funded 90% by government, 10% by diocese, but BSF will be 100% government funding.