



Report of the BSF Project Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update of progress to date in respect of County Durham's BSF Programme 2006/07 and its contribution to the delivery of the County Council's Corporate Aims in respect of Lifelong Learning.

Background

2. February 2004 saw the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State announce the launch of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – a national programme to lift educational attainment through a complete transformation of England's secondary schools. The 10 to 15 year programme will see new schools built, or existing schools upgraded, to meet the needs of communities in the 21st century.
3. In November 2004, the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) (formerly the Department for Education and Skills (DfES)) announced that the County Council's application to be included in an early stage of the BSF programme had been successful. DCC was formally accepted into Wave 3 of the programme in September 2005. The extended use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be a key contributor to the transformation of learning and teaching and will be a major element of both the vision and capital investment. In addition to the transformation of learning and teaching, the BSF programme's other main objectives are to support the recommendation in the Education and Inspections Act (2006) and other government initiatives including extended schools, workforce reform, and inclusion.
4. School buildings play a significant part in pupils' education. Such buildings should therefore, support our educational vision of high expectations, specialism and excellence, local collaboration, community involvement and high-quality teaching and learning.
5. BSF is driven by the following core beliefs:
 - transformational change - the ultimate objective is about creating radical improvements in educational outcomes;
 - education vision - it is vital that schemes developed locally are driven by a vision of how to accomplish this transformational change;

- sustainability – this investment must be protected by ensuring that schools are well cared-for throughout their useful lives;
 - effective delivery – a new approach to procurement will simplify and speed up the procurement of future schemes; and
 - value for money – a long-term national programme will create economies of scale by allowing new approaches to design and construction.
6. A key aspect of BSF is that local schemes, designed to deliver locally driven educational needs and requirements, are intended to be delivered by adopting a common approach, using standard documentation.

Educational Transformation in Durham

7. An extract from the County Council's Vision for Children and young People, setting out the key objectives for the BSF Programme, is attached as Appendix 1.
8. In addition to supporting Corporate Aims in terms of protecting and supporting vulnerable children and improving educational attainment / achievement, BSF IN County Durham will also contribute to the Corporate Aims of improving health, promote economic well-being and improve the quality of the environment.
9. Health, worklessness and raising the economic well being of the County are also priorities of the County Council. Added to this are a number of Challenges presented in the Vision for County Durham which include:

"creating a computer-connected network of community hubs in towns and parishes, accessible for teaching and learning by the community and providing world class facilities for education..."

10. For the above reasons, and in addition to the Educational priorities, maximising opportunities for community use of schools and training and developing a local labour force able to participate in the BSF Programme are key to its success.

Standardisation with BSF

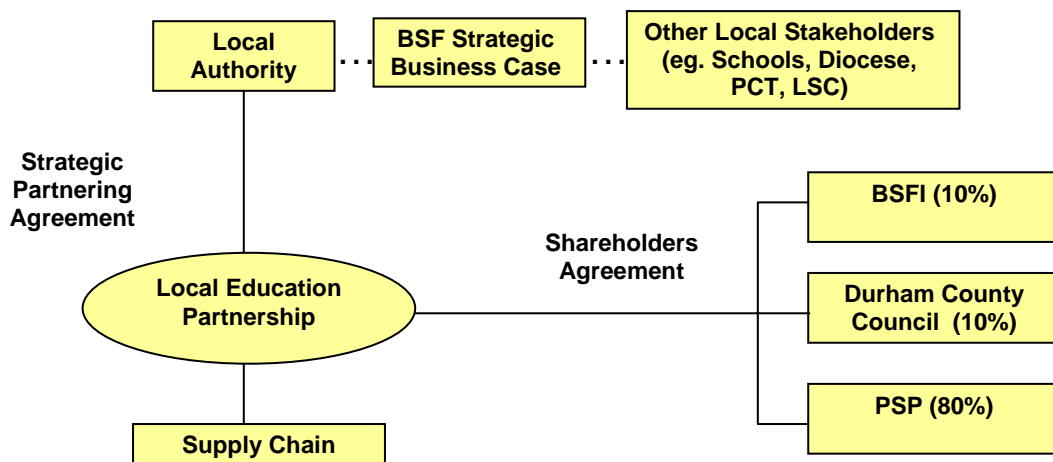
11. BSF is a heavily prescribed programme with standard documentation and structures. Durham County Council prepared a Strategic Business Case (SBC) which was approved by the former DCSF on 3 August 2006. It describes the corporate and educational vision across the area, together with a strategy for delivery. The SBC is a strategic planning document which builds upon the Education Vision and includes an executive summary of the Vision, a strategic overview of school provision, key priorities for the school estate, how the project will be delivered, the consultation planned to ensure that all key partners are involved in the development and delivery of the programme.

12. Durham County Council's SBC gave an indication of the County Council's intentions and a commitment to use standard documentation for the procurement phase of the processes. The scope of the project is still substantially that proposed at SBC stage, however, a number of the issues have now been clarified and formally approved. These include:

Procurement of a Local Education Partnership (LEP)

13. Following an options appraisal exercise it was concluded that the most appropriate vehicle for delivering the BSF programme was a single Local Education Partnership (LEP) for all Waves within the County Council's BSF project. The County Council Cabinet agreed this course of action on 22 June 2006.

14. The Standard LEP Structure is:



15. The structure shown above is the standard LEP model and it is not envisaged that it will be fundamentally altered. However should bidders wish to suggest minor departures from the standard then this will be considered during negotiation with bidders.

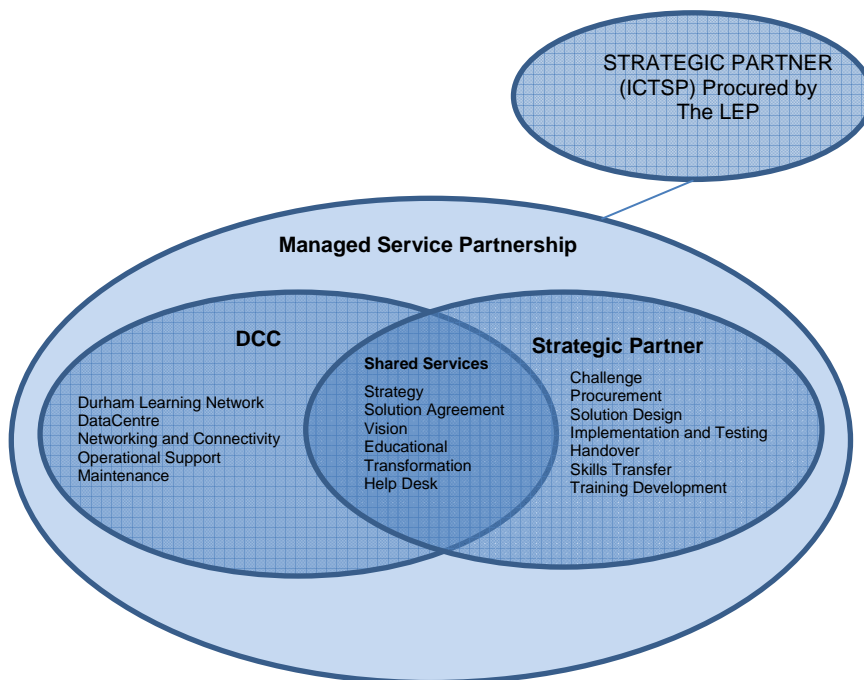
16. The LEP will:

- work with the Local Authority and other local stakeholders to refine and develop its strategic investment plans for secondary education for the area;
- act as the single point of contact for the procurement and delivery of all the services likely to be required to deliver the investment programme including design, construction, project management, FM, ICT services, etc;
- integrate and manage a diverse range of supply chain sub-contractors ranging from building contractors, FM services to ICT providers; and
- enable delivery of projects through a mix of procurement routes (i.e. PFI and conventionally funded).

ICT managed service:

17. Durham County Council is proposing a bespoke solution for the delivery of the ICT managed service which will consist of a partnership between the Council and the LEP.

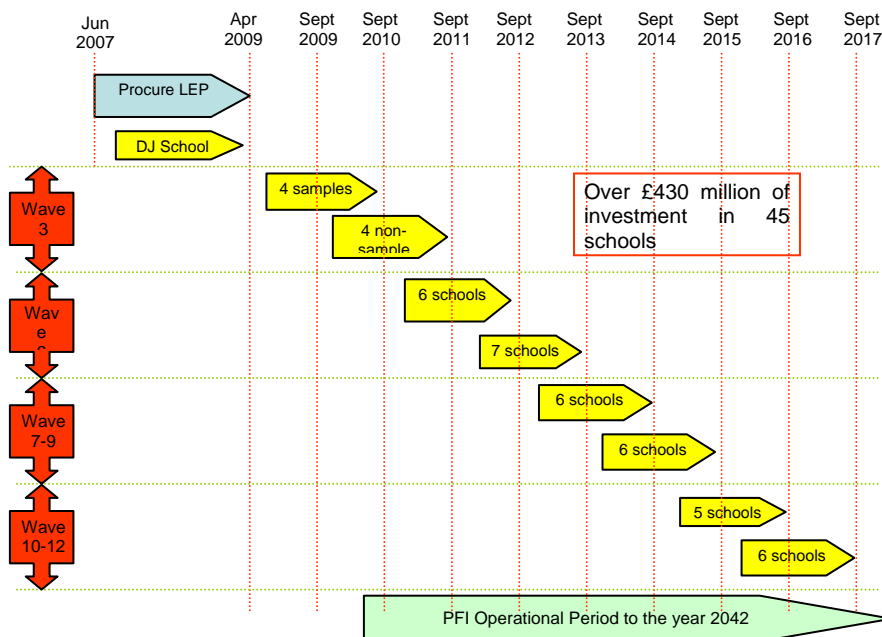
18. This is intended to take the form of a Managed Service Partnership (MSP) as demonstrated below, comprising of in-house provision and an ICT Strategic Partner (procured via the LEP), which will provide a comprehensive service covering all aspects of the BSF managed service requirement. Service delivery will be drawn from existing and planned in-house services along with completely new services drawn in from the private sector.



Project Flow Through LEP

19. Durham County Council (DCC) BSF Programme is currently expected to be delivered over four BSF Waves, Wave 3, Waves 6, Wave 7-9, and Waves 10-12.

20. The diagram below outlines the anticipated 'flow' of projects through the LEP for all Waves of Durham's BSF Programme.



Wave 3

21. Durham County Council secured Wave 3 funding from the DCSF on 19 June 2007 to deliver an initial project consisting of 8 schools: Seaham School of Technology, Dene Community School, Shotton Hall School, St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School, Easington Community School, Sedgefield Community College, Wellfield Community School and Glendene Special School, (including the provision of an ICT managed service).
22. Durham County Council will initially receive funding for these 8 schools in Wave 3. However, following discussions with Partnerships for Schools (PfS), it was confirmed on 5 May 2006, that funding would be brought forward for Durham Johnston Comprehensive School from the originally proposed Wave 10-12 inclusion. In order to progress with this project to timescales previously agreed, this project is being delivered separately from the procurement of the LEP and will be open for use September 2009.
23. The Planning Committee granted planning consent for the redevelopment of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School on 17th August 2007. Work is expected to start on site on 24th September. Handover of the new school buildings is expected to be Easter 2009 with the school operating on a single site from September 2009. When the LEP is in place, it will fall under the same management arrangements as the rest of the secondary school estate.

Wave 6

24. Following a further written submission of "Readiness to Deliver", Durham County Council has also received confirmation of its acceptance into Wave 6 of its second phase comprising 13 schools, including the Pupil Referral Unit, in the South West of the County.

Subsequent Waves

25. The remaining secondary schools are planned to receive investment in later Waves of the programme.

Management Arrangements

The Project Board

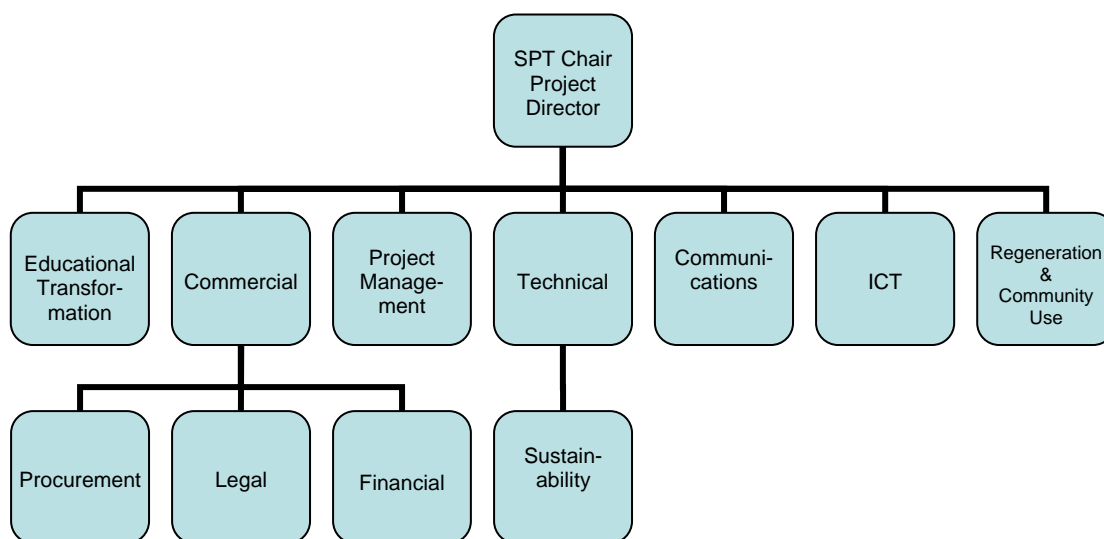
26. A Project Board has been set up to oversee this Project. The Project Board includes the following people:

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| David Williams Chair & Project Owner | Corporate Director Children & Young People's Services |
| Cllr Claire Vasey | County Councillor and Cabinet Member Children & Young People's Services |
| Cllr Michele Hodgson | County Councillor and Cabinet Member Corporate Services Libraries and Culture |
| Cllr Clive Robson | Deputy Leader of Durham County Council |
| Gerard Moran | Representative of Durham Association of Secondary Headteachers (DASH) |
| Liz Neale | Project Director Partnerships for Schools |
| Steve Leigh | Project Director, 4ps |
| Tom Crompton/Linda Bailey | Learning & Skills Council |

27. In addition to the above, Durham County Council Officers attend and support the Board as appropriate.

BSF Strategic Project Team and Workstreams

28. Below the Project Board sits the Strategic Project Team (SPT) chaired by the Project Director. This group meets fortnightly and comprises leaders of the workstreams shown in the structure below, together with representation as appropriate from other parties involved in taking forward BSF. Progress is updated via risk and issue reports and verbal updates. Reports are presented at SPT prior to being taken to BSF Board and, where appropriate are forwarded by the Board to the Council's Cabinet.



29. Since the appointment of a full time Project Director, Project Manager and collocating other dedicated posts within the BSF team, fully supported by David Williams, the focus of the BSF programme has deliberately been shifted from a construction led programme to an educational transformation programme. The staff in schools have welcomed this and are now very excited to work with the County Council and bidders to develop the new proposals which will not be "new, old schools" but learning centres of the future.

Competitive Dialogue

30. Following OBC approval for Wave 3 in June 2007, an advert was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) submissions were received from five interested parties on the 6th August 2007. The bids have been evaluated and a long list has been approved by the BSF Board with all five consortiums continuing to the next stage.

31. Following this long list selection, the Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) was issued on 23rd August. This is the start of the dialogue phase which itself is split into two stages. The first stage is ITPD where the number of bidders in dialogue with the County Council will have to be reduced to three. The second is ITCD (Invitation to Continue Dialogue) where a preferred bidder will have to be selected from the remaining three.

32. The overall aim of the dialogue phase is to identify the most appropriate solution or solutions to the County Council's needs.

Wave 3

33. The options appraisal and control option development processes for all of the Wave 3 schools have been undertaken in consultation with the Council's Planning and Highways Officers. School Staff, Governors, Sport England and the DCSF Schools Assets Team have also been consulted.

34. The County Council, as planning authority, has confirmed that outline planning consents are not required for the Wave 3 proposals as they relate to the existing school sites and therefore have de facto approval. However, an alternative site has recently been identified for Seaham School and this is being explored as a potential new location for the secondary school. This is the subject of a separate report which will be considered by members during September 2007. It will mean that, should the alternative site be a viable option, Seaham school will be developed alongside the second phase of Wave 3 and not as a Sample scheme as originally intended. The school staff and stakeholders are fully aware of this.

Consultation

35. Workshops for phase 1 have commenced with the schools which will result in a workbook for each school setting out how the school could be developed according to its vision. These will be given to the short listed bidders at ITCD stage. The workbooks will provide the bidders with a starting point – it is not intended to be the complete solution for our schools.

36. This will be followed by extensive consultation during the dialogue stage in order to secure the best designs for the “learning centres” envisaged. Initial talks with the bidders would suggest that all are proposing that extended community use, support to training, skills developments and use of local labour will be part of their bids.

Wave 6

37. Work with schools in wave 6 has begun with shaping their visions. The next step will be to develop this into a “Strategy for Change” which will consider an holistic approach to educational provision in the South West of County Durham. This will go forward for DCFS approval in 2008 in order to progress Wave 6 implementation.

Next Steps

38. Key milestones from the programme are detailed below, please note, dates are subject to change:

- Short list confirmed (3 bidders) – 18th October 2007
- Receipt of initial tenders – 11th March 2008
- Receipt of final tenders – 4th August 2008
- Appointment of Preferred Bidder – 1st October 2008
- Contract Award – 17th April 2009
- First school opens – September 2010

39. Recommendations

40. That Corporate Scrutiny Sub-Committee Members:

- note the contents of this report
- agree to receiving subsequent progress reports

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