

Building schools for the future

'Building Schools for the Future' is about 'transformation' and '21st century facilities' – but what does this mean for governors?

In November 2004, the government announced a further rollout of its massive investment programme, Building Schools for the Future. Twenty LEAs (including The Learning Trust in Hackney) joined the 10 Pathfinder and Wave 1 authorities in planning major redevelopment of their secondary school estates linked to transformation of secondary education and better integration of ICT.

This is a programme to provide secondary schools fit for the 21st century – annual resources are currently £2.2bn and the scale of building is anticipated to be 50% new build/rebuild, 35% major refurbishment and 15% minor refurbishment. A separate one-off sum is provided for ICT investment. ICT will be available on tap like electricity or water.

The whole programme is being organised into an anticipated 15 annual waves of investment (actual future allocations are, of course, subject to further central government spending decisions). Resources are being targeted initially at LEAs with high deprivation (measured by free school meals) and low attainment (assessed by GCSE results). Hence, the inclusion of Hackney in the programme.

In order to manage such a huge amount of investment in a local area the DfES has established a new body to manage the national programme: Partnerships for School (PFS). There is a need to develop a shared education vision for each area, leading to a Strategic Business Case detailing how and where the investment will be made – there must be a coherent programme showing how everything fits in.

The government believes that value for money will be most likely achieved by a special partnership with private sector companies - designers, builders ICT specialists etc... This will be done through setting up a 'Local Education Partnership' (LEP), a joint venture company set up by a private sector partner, the LEA and PFS. The LEP is designed to manage the mix of funding available (Private Finance Initiative credits and traditional capital), different procurement routes (PFI and design and build), and investment over a ten-year period, and also to integrate the different supplies and services required.

Key issues for schools governors are:

1. Keeping buildings safe whilst waiting for major investments;
2. Having a key input into the Education Vision and Strategic Business Case;
3. Understanding the procurement processes sufficient to make sure the school's voice is heard throughout the process;
4. Making sufficient time to be adequately involved;
5. Understanding how BSF relates to the Five Year Strategy, the Children Act and other developments such as extended schools.

What are the BSF Key aims for Hackney?

Haggerston	Refurbish	2007/8
Clapton Girls	Refurbish	2007/8
Stoke Newington	Refurbish (possible campus)	2007/8
Cardinal Pole	Possible Rebuild on one site	later
Our Lady's	Refurbish	later
Skinner's	Possible Rebuild on one site	later
Stormont House	Refurbish	later
Daniel House	Refurbish	later
Horizon/Ickburgh	Refurbish	later
Crusoe House	Refurbish	later

What progress has been made to date in Hackney?

- The Education Vision is complete – Headteachers, Governors and the London Borough of Hackney are in agreement;
- Individual School Visions are almost complete and initial options have been considered;
- Educational feasibility studies are about to start;
- A Strategic Business Case is being constructed;
- Property surveys and site potential is being evaluated across Hackney.

In his March 2005 budget, the Chancellor announced the extension of BSF into primary schools. Nationally, this initiative could see the rebuild/ refurbishment of the equivalent of 15 primary schools in every parliamentary constituency. As Hackney has 2 constituencies, we could see half of our primaries rebuilt or refurbished to 21st century standards.

More details are available from www.bsf.gov.uk or www.hackney.gov.uk



New Ofsted Framework & School Self Evaluation

Everyone should now be aware that the framework for school inspections by Ofsted will be changing from September 2005. Schools' self-evaluation evidence will be the starting point of inspections. More frequent, shorter inspections with smaller inspection teams and only 2 – 5 days notice are designed to reduce stress levels and prevent unnecessary pre-inspection preparations. Inspectors will access the school's self-evaluation online so it must be up to date at all times. Ofsted's Self Evaluation Form (SEF) helps school managers and governors to answer the questions:

- **What do we know?**
- **How do we know it?**
- **What are we doing to improve?**

The SEF requires schools to evaluate their performance in the following areas:

- **the characteristics of the school**
- **views of learners, parents/carers and other stakeholders**
- **how well do learners achieve**
- **personal development and wellbeing**
- **quality of provision**
- **leadership and management**
- **overall effectiveness and efficiency**
- **compliance with statutory (legal) requirements (part C)**

Schools have to explain the impact of their work against the five Every Child Matters outcomes

- **Be healthy**
- **Stay safe and feel safe**
- **Enjoy and achieve**
- **Make a positive contribution**
- **Achieve economic well-being**

Governors can ask their Governor Support Officer for more details on Every Child Matters or visit www.everychildmatters.gov.uk.

Following an inspection, reports will be with the governing body at least in draft form by the end of the week of the inspection and will be shorter (about 6 pages as opposed to 30+ under the old framework) focusing on the key outcomes with clearer recommendations for improvement. There is no need to write a separate Ofsted action plan as the intended actions will be included in school development plans. There will be 2 categories for schools that do not meet the required standards – special measures and improvement notice.

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More on New Ofsted Framework & School Self Evaluation

Involving Governors

School managers and governors need to decide how the SEF will be drafted, how the governing body will be involved and how the form will be kept up to date. Although headteachers will usually draft the SEF, it is the governing body which has ultimate responsibility for its completion and its content. In order to involve governors in evaluating the school's performance, schools might like to

- ask governors for their views and comments on the first draft
- give sections of the SEF to governing body committees to draft the relevant points
- ask governors to check whether the statutory requirements in Part C are being met
- nominate a governor or two to take part in an evaluation day when the SMT/Leadership Team drafts the SEF

This list is not exhaustive and schools may find other ways of involving governors. Remember parent governors can be an excellent and accessible source of evidence: it's important to include the parents' voice when evaluating the school.

More Information

Chairs of governors were sent a letter and a copy of the New Relationship with Schools (NRWS) document in June. It's also available to download from www.dfes.gov.uk and enter the reference **1288-2005** in the search box. A second NRWS document deals with school improvement and self-evaluation in more detail; again this is available online www.dfes.gov.uk (enter **1290-2005** in the search box). Both documents can be requested free of charge by telephoning DfES Publications on **0845 60 222 60** and quote the relevant reference numbers.

A blank SEF is available at <http://forms.ofsted.gov.uk/edc2003/sefpri.pdf> (or [sefsec.pdf](http://forms.ofsted.gov.uk/edc2003/sefsec.pdf) for secondary, [sefnur.pdf](http://forms.ofsted.gov.uk/edc2003/sefnur.pdf) for nursery schools). If you don't have access to the internet, please contact your Governor Support Officer on **020 8820 7369** for a printed copy of any of these documents.

We are offering governor training to explain the changes to the Ofsted inspection framework on 27 September 2005 and 14 March 2006 at the Hackney Technology and Learning Centre.

Booking is essential: please call Cupie Dixon on **020 8820 7369** or email cupie.dixon@learningtrust.co.uk. Learning Trust staff are also available to visit your governing body for a briefing session; please contact Susan Moyse on **020 8820 7377** or e-mail susan.moyse@learningtrust.co.uk

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Election Results: Schools Forum Governor Representatives

Primary (3 places)			
Jean Charles	De Beauvoir	Unopposed	Elected
Greta Karpin	Grasmere	Unopposed	Elected
Lisa Neidich	Simon Marks	Unopposed	Elected
Secondary (2 places)			
Eric Cato	Skinner's Company	46 votes	
Christopher Everett	Skinner's Company	91 votes	Elected
Yehiel Frand	Yesodeh Hatorah	13 votes	
Nicole Van Staeyen	Clapton	110 votes	Elected
Special (1 place)			
Betty Brown	Crusoe House	37 votes	
Bernard Hawes	Stormont House	100 votes	Elected

The Schools Forum, which includes headteacher representatives too, meets twice each term to advise the Learning Trust on the school funding formula, service contracts and other financial matters. Governor representatives are elected every two years. More details from Mark Brownlow, Governor Support Manager on **020 8820 7206** or e-mail mark.brownlow@learningtrust.co.uk

Registration & Regulation of Qualified Teachers

The General Teaching Council (GTC) has issued new guidance to governors of community schools. The briefing note was sent to Chairs in June 2005 and details the governing body's responsibilities for checking:

- teaching staff are qualified
- they are registered with the GTC
- whether there are any disciplinary sanctions placed upon them by the GTC

In Hackney the Learning Trust normally carries out these checks.

The briefing note also explains GTC conduct and competence hearings. These hearings, which are additional to any employers' hearings or subsequent employment tribunals, can determine whether a teacher retains registered status.

If you would like a copy of the briefing paper, visit the GTC's website at www.gtce.org.uk or, if you don't have access to the internet, please contact the Learning Trust's Governor Support Unit on **020 8820 7369**

Governors Bulletin

Governors Bulletin is produced by the Learning Trust's Governor Support Unit, Hackney Technology & Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, London E8 1GQ. Telephone **020 8820 7377** or email susan.moyse@learningtrust.co.uk

A trip to the seaside...

We've been building links with governors in Brighton & Hove. They were one of the first authorities to integrate their education and children's social services departments – a requirement under Every Child Matters (The Children Act 2004).

We were lucky to have a speaker from Brighton & Hove at our 2004 conference and this term a group of Hackney governors visited their counterparts by the sea. The Hackney governors taking part were

Catherine Aicken	Wentworth Nursery
Jennifer Bell	Harrington Hill Primary School
Andrew Bridgwater	Crusoe House & Stormont House Special Schools
Martin McEnergy	Our Lady's Convent High School

They were accompanied by Nicola Baboneau, Assistant Director for Children's Services at the Trust and Elaine Petruckevitch and Susan Moyse from the Governor Support Unit.

The trip, organised by Brighton & Hove Governor Support and the team at the Learning Trust, took place earlier this term. We discussed the resourcing, management and governance implications of the children's service agenda with our governor and LEA colleagues. We were able to share the many examples of good practice in Hackney's extended schools. They were particularly interested to hear of the good work being done to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies in Hackney.



Nicola & Andrew admire a carnival figure sculpted by the pupils of Bevendean School

A visit to Bevendean Primary School showed the full range of extension activities. Sited in the middle of an estate, Bevendean offers a breakfast club, a counsellor, family learning, its own after-school club and a range of sports and drama activities at the weekends.

We are hoping to continue and develop our links with Brighton & Hove and look forward to welcoming them to Hackney. We thank the Hackney governor volunteers, our colleagues at Brighton & Hove and all at Bevendean Primary School.



The Deputy Head at Bevendean describes their family learning facilities to Catherine & Nicola