



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
OXFORD, OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons  
Chief Executive

Mr Tim Byles CBE  
Chief Executive  
Partnerships for Schools  
Fifth Floor  
8 -10 Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AE

Direct Line: 01865 815330

16 September 2009

*Dear Tim,*

We welcome this early opportunity to demonstrate our readiness to deliver the BSF programme. We have shown the seriousness of our intent through committing £4.2 million to procuring a LEP partner and securing sustainable, transformational benefits from BSF.

As the Leader and the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council, we both confirm that the County Council:

- accepts that DCSF and PFS will decide on the appropriateness of funding arrangements. We acknowledge that new schools will be predominantly procured through PFI and refurbishments will be procured through conventional capital funding;
- understands that the default model is the Local Education Partnership (LEP), unless otherwise agreed with DCSF and PFS. We will seek to follow the LEP to deliver the BSF Programme and only propose an appropriate alternative when it offers better value for money or where there are compelling and material project delivery reasons to do otherwise;
- is willing to procure an area-wide ICT managed service and to work with schools to secure their full participation in this service to enhance the role of ICT in transforming learning experience and education provision across the County;
- is willing to accept PFS standard forms subject to only scheme-specific amendments reflecting local issues;
- is considering the implication of facilities management (FM) services for schools procured through PFI and other traditional routes. It shares the same stated desire within the LEP model to ensure that no Design and Build schools have a weaker FM service compared to PFI schools;
- has identified existing contractual arrangements that might impact on BSF Procurement
- has made financial provision of £4.2m within its medium term financial plan for the BSF Programme in order to cover costs associated with recruitment of a dedicated project team, appointment of external advisors and other programme development activities across the next five years.

*Yours Sincerely,*  
*Keith Mitchell*

Keith Mitchell  
Leader of the Council

*Joanna Simons*  
Joanna Simons  
Chief Executive



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

