

The Academies Route - The Role of the Local Authority

- 1.0 Since previous briefings, which set out the case for a second academy, there has been a change to the way in which the sponsorship funding of Academies will be used. In future sponsorship funds will not be used as a contribution towards the capital cost of an Academy building. They will, instead, be used by the Trust to set up an investment fund that will be used to counter the educational impact of disadvantage and deprivation or for educational work with the local community. Sponsorship funding will not be used to meet the usual running costs of an Academy.
- 2.0 Also the DfES has announced that the Academies building programme will in future be delivered via Building Schools for the Future (BSF). In short, this means new Academies that are planned for Local Authorities which are already designated to or assigned to an active BSF wave will be delivered by Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) or any other approved alternative procurement route. New academies in Local Authorities that have yet to be prioritised for inclusion in BSF will be delivered using a national framework that will be managed by Partnerships for Schools (PfS). The net result is that there is every likelihood that Local Authorities will have an increasingly central role on progressing Academies proposals to completion.
- 3.0 The new sponsorship model will apply to all projects which are delivered by the new Partnerships for Schools (PfS) delivery model, whether as part of BSF or via the national framework. In these cases the Department (DfES) will meet the full capital building costs for the Academy.