

It is envisaged that the pilots will:

- develop and define best practice for the rest of the programme;
- develop the underpinning national and local processes needed to deliver results; and
- support and build the capacity of other authorities

The DfES intend to approve around 25 pilots nationally (2 to 3 per region) with a mix of types and sizes of authority across the country.

### **Funding**

Funding is as follows:

- In 2006-07 and 2007-08, authority's existing capital allocations only
- in 2008-09, sharing extra £150 million capital between pilots. So, likely extra funding: £4 million - £5 million
- There are no revenue or running cost funds in this programme or the pilots; it is envisaged that the pilot will form part of the core business of the authority, as already planned and budgeted for
- From 2009-10, pilot authorities will receive a full share of the extra capital resources, allocated according to the national formula
- Extra funding in 2008-09 is conditional on completion of the entire pilot.

### **What will the pilots involve?**

Authorities considering themselves for the pilots should expect to:

- test particular processes of importance to the DfES (e.g. how might children & young people's plans or asset management be adapted; testing different types of monitoring exercises);
- be available for (at least termly) national meetings of the pilots with the DfES;
- and be willing to share responsibility within their region to consult other authorities, keep them informed of progress and contribute to the building of skills and capacity.

Key questions the DfES will consider in selecting authorities as pilots

**(These should be addressed clearly in the expression of interest):**

- Q1. Has the authority already agreed and started to put in place a bold strategic vision for Every Child Matters and primary provision, using existing capital allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08 to make it happen?
- Q2. Has the authority had success in joining up planning and funding effectively to make the vision a reality in particular capital projects?
- Q3. Has the authority a good track record in delivering complex capital projects, e.g. high quality and sustainable design, on time and to cost, and does it have the infrastructure to procure and spend extra resources from 2008-09?
- Q4. Has the authority already made a difference for primary-age children, particularly by raising its key stage 2 results above the national average?
- Q5. Can the authority commit its own people and resources to working collaboratively with DfES, other pilot authorities and its regional neighbour authorities to develop the national programme and develop regional capacity?
- Q7. Does the authority have existing or emerging best practice and new ideas to contribute on:
- responding to parental demand, expanding popular schools, solutions to school failure, federations, trusts and networks of schools?
  - every child matters, using children's trusts, and extended services?
  - design and procurement issues, e.g. exemplar designs, standardisation, off-site construction, value for money procurement methods, sustainability, use of BB99?
  - involving partners, schools, pupils and communities?
  - joining up planning, funding and monitoring across children's and other services?
- Q8. Does the authority have exciting, but realistic and deliverable, plans for how it will invest £4 million to £5 million in the pilot in 2008-09?

(The DfES will also use it's own knowledge in assessing expressions of interest, including: OFSTED or Audit Commission Reports; involvement in ECM or primary programmes; successful management of recent capital projects)

### **Applications**

An Expression of Interest (up to 5 pages of A4) should be completed and submitted to the DfES by 14 June 2006 (in hard copy and electronically).

The DfES will not look at, or comment, on drafts before the deadline but is happy to offer advice (by phone) about the selection criteria.

Results will be announced in September 2006.