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**SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Members of the Expression of Interest sent to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Partnerships for Schools, seeking to have Darlington included in the next wave of funding available under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

**Summary**

2. Darlington is not scheduled to be included in the BSF programme until 2013-14. Given the Authority's established track-record in handling capital projects relating to schools, an Expression of Interest has been submitted to DCSF requesting acceleration through the programme. This would mean work could start on refurbishing the three secondary schools in the Borough that have not been modernised, and improving the use of ICT as a learning medium in all secondary schools.

**Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that Members :-
  - (a) receive the report for information; and
  - (b) request the Director of Children's Services to bring further reports on the outcome of presenting the Expression of Interest.

**Murray Rose,**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers:**

DCSF Children's Plan  
"schools@onedarlington"

George McQueen: Extension 2847

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues arising directly from the content of this report.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues arising directly from the content of this report.
Sustainability	The BSF programme, when implemented, will mean that all secondary schools in the Borough will meet the sustainability agenda expected in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.
Diversity	The BSF programme confirms the establishment of a diverse family of schools, including Foundation, Community, Voluntary Aided and faith based schools, as well as an Academy, making the maximum choice available to parents.
Wards Affected	All wards in Darlington will be affected by the BSF programme.
Groups Affected	Pupils aged 11-19.
Budget and Policy Framework	The Expression of Interest, if successful, will be followed by a detailed bid and business case for capital funds.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The BSF is consistent with the Aspiring Darlington theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy: providing high quality facilities that support modern approaches to education in schools and lifelong learning.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. Darlington has a good record of attracting capital funds to the Borough and four of its seven secondary schools have been replaced or refurbished in the last five years. Haughton School is integrated into The Education Village; Carmel RC College has recently had building work completed; and work on Hummersknott School is well advanced. The former Eastbourne School closed, and a new building for Eastbourne Church of England Academy is currently under construction at Hundens Lane, and is due to open for students in September 2009.
5. Three schools, Longfield, Hurworth and Branksome are housed in buildings dating from the 1960s and they do not currently provide the learning environment and opportunities described in our Children's Plan. Demographic projections indicate that it will be necessary to maintain seven secondary schools in Darlington. The spread of the population further

indicates that the locations of the current school buildings serve the population well.

6. The BSF programme presents the opportunity to look critically and creatively at school improvement. Through the strategy of schools@onedarlington we seek to ensure that all schools in the secondary phase can co-operate, share expertise and embrace the 14-19 agenda, providing all pupils with the best possible opportunities for achievement and personalised learning. Investment in Information and Communications Technology is key to turning aspirations for transformational teaching and learning into reality.
7. Our Expression of Interest records that we have only three schools requiring refurbishment, that we are well prepared to develop advances in transformational learning, with schools 'signed up' to co-operative working, and that we are confident of our readiness to deliver, should funding be made available to Darlington from April 2009.
8. A copy of the Expression of Interest is attached to this report as **Appendix A**.

### **Conclusion**

9. Moving forward in the BSF programme would assist in the drive to improve standards across Darlington's secondary schools, and increase the opportunities available to pupils in the new 14-19 agenda.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

10. No consultation was required in the preparation of this report.
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