

The Primary Capital Programme at a Glance

Purpose:

- Rebuild, remodel or refurbish about half of primary schools
- Supports national policy agenda: Children's Plan, world class standards, ECM, diversity and responsiveness, extended services, personalisation
- Targeted to address deprivation nationally and in every local authority
- Primary schools at the heart of the community, with ICT and children's services in reach of every family
- Improve links between schools and early years settings –e.g. through co-location with Sure Start Children's Centres and other children's services

Scope and timescale:

- Funding starts in 2008 and expected to run for 14 years, subject to future government spending decisions
- All primary schools eligible; including middle-deemed primary, VA foundation and Trust schools and primary-age specials schools
- Year 1 funding for regional pilots; all local authorities involved from Year 2
- Schools not receiving extra investment continue to receive annual capital grant

Funding:

- Additional ring-fenced £150 million in 2008–09 rising to £650 million in 2009-10, and £1.1 billion in 2010-11.
- Funding for VA schools at the usual 90% rate.
- Baselines to remain at £500 million a year for the duration of the programme, subject to future government spending decisions
- Allocation by formula based on the number of primary pupils and deprivation, with a floor to protect smaller authorities
- Added impact by joining up with existing DCSF funding streams
- Greater added impact by joining up with eligible capital from other government departments and local resources

Targets and planning:

- Targets and planning ensure investment hits need
- Step-change from patch and mend and disjointed investment to strategic, service-wide planning and redesign
- Joined-up planning alongside other national and local priorities and initiatives, particularly Sure Start Children's Centres
- National objectives translated into local strategic infrastructure plans, approved by DCSF to release funding

Design, procurement and skills

- Promotes excellent design and sustainability
- Long-term strategic programme offers potential for efficiencies
- Develop best practice partnering with private sector, including local education partnerships where already set up through BSF
- Develop skills necessary in schools, local authorities and private sector to deliver
- Pilots develop regional capacity to showcase and develop best practice