



Images courtesy of Wilmott Dixon

The Primary Capital Programme

What is the Primary Capital Programme?

The Primary Capital Programme (PCP) will renew at least half of all primary schools in England by 2022/23, bringing them up to 21st century standards with wider services for children and families at the heart of their communities.

The programme challenges local authorities to think long term and strategically about teaching and learning in 21st century primary schools and how capital investment can help deliver improvements in education – a step change from previous patch-and-mend spending of old, particularly in the primary estate.

Through PCP, around half of all primaries will be rebuilt or refurbished, with the programme aiming to take out of use at least the worst five per cent of primary school buildings and give 45 per cent of primary schools major investment.

The remaining 50 per cent will have sufficient investment to maintain and improve their buildings. Of the projects to receive funding, 23 will be exemplar pathfinder projects.

The programme is supported by £1.9 billion of new capital investment over the three-year period 2008/09 to 2010/11. Local authorities have collectively committed to double that investment by joining up with formula funding and other local resources.

Subject to future spending decisions, funding is expected to continue until 2023, supported by a baseline of £500m.

The primary school estate

There are more than 17,000 maintained primary schools including all through, separate junior and infant schools, community, foundation and voluntary.

Some primary schools have just 30 places, while the largest has 900. Almost four million pupils attend primary schools around the country. Due to changing demographics, nationally there were over 500,000 surplus places in 2008. But pupil numbers are now increasing rapidly in some areas

The age of the primary school estate

Pre 1919	14%
Inter war	11%
1945-66	30%
1967-76	23%
Post 1976	20%
Temporary Accommodation	2%

Who is PFS?

Partnerships for Schools (PFS) was established in 2004 by the DCSF (previously DfES) as both a company and an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) to deliver Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

In March 2006, PFS also took on responsibility for delivering the Academies programme, which will see 400 Academies built across the country. More recently, PFS has been asked to assume responsibility for delivering all schools capital investment programmes. In addition to BSF and the Academies programmes, this includes:

- Primary Capital Programme (PCP);
- Co-location Fund;
- Devolved Capital Programmes (including the Modernisation Fund and the Devolved Formula Capital);
- Targeted Capital Programmes (e.g. zero-carbon schools and school kitchens); and
- management of the schools assets regime, and payments to voluntary aided schools.

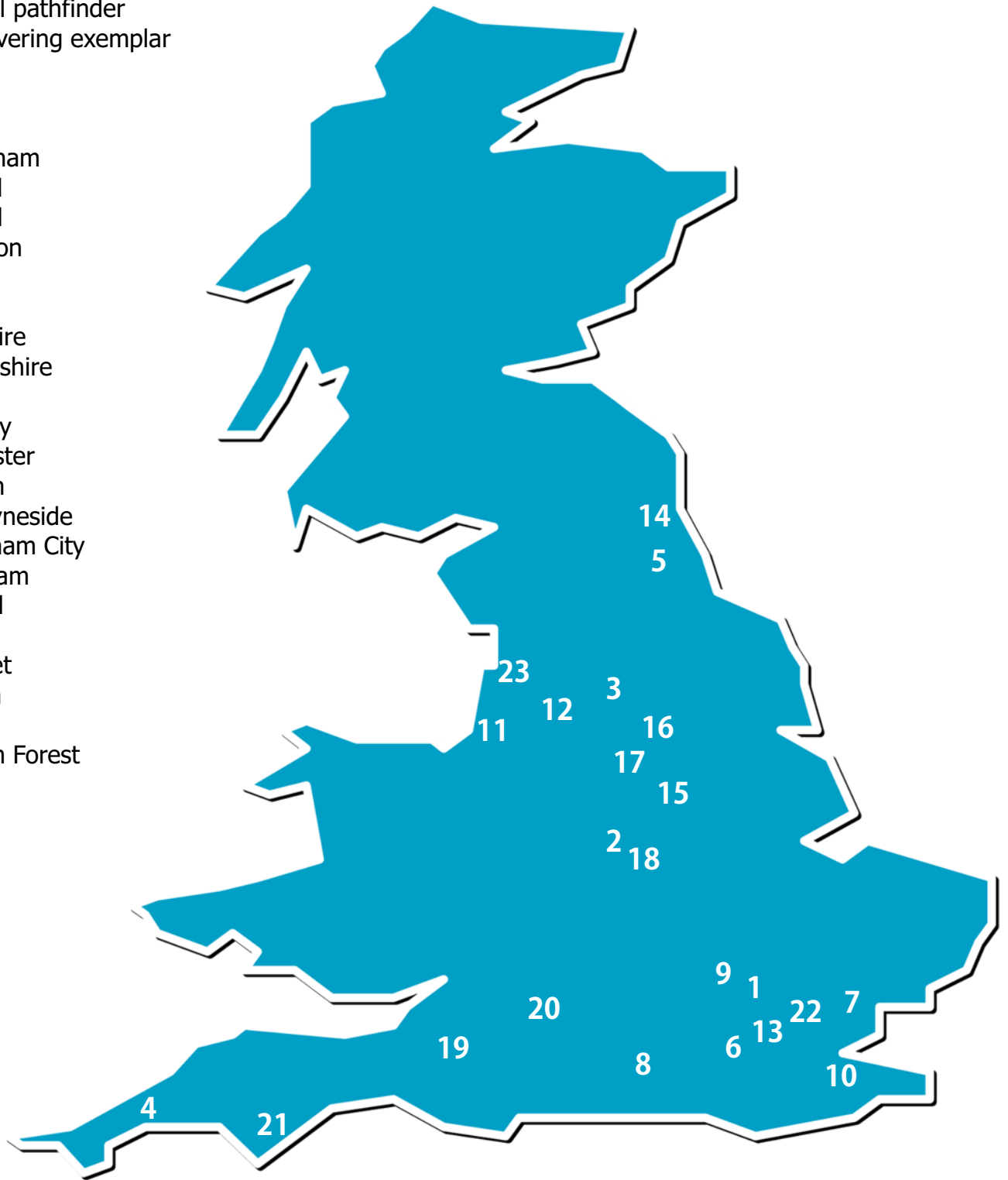
These new responsibilities represent around £8.5 billion of investment per annum managed and delivered by PFS. This change represents a broader move across government that will see departments assume a more strategic function and devolve more delivery issues to agency bodies, helping achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of public sector programmes.

The key role for PFS is to ensure that investment in schools is based on robust educational strategies and that the public purse receives best value for money.

PFS helps to build strong Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), enabling the public sector to benefit from the best skills and expertise available in the private sector and reaping greater efficiencies and economies of scale.

The 23 regional pathfinder authorities delivering exemplar projects are:

1. Barnet
2. Birmingham
3. Bradford
4. Cornwall
5. Darlington
6. Ealing
7. Essex
8. Hampshire
9. Hertfordshire
10. Kent
11. Knowsley
12. Manchester
13. Newham
14. North Tyneside
15. Nottingham City
16. Rotherham
17. Sheffield
18. Solihull
19. Somerset
20. Swindon
21. Torbay
22. Waltham Forest
23. Wigan



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