

# DfE update

Rose Pennells

Basic Need and Capital Strategy



Department  
for Education

# To recap the last update...

Julie Bramman talked about

- The overall demographic trends
- Our funding for 2015-21
- Our aims to make sure that we
  - Continue to target funding to where it's needed
  - Give LAs and others a longer planning horizon
  - Make sure that incentives and accountability are well aligned
- Specific issues about Targeted Basic Need and free schools



# Three big updates



# Sebastian James is reviewing progress

- **Allocation of Capital**
  - Data
  - Allocation
  - Strategic Planning
  
- **Planning and Implementation**
  - Design
  - Procurement and Delivery

**And I can share some of his emerging findings...**



# James Review – how is funding targeted?



Allocation based on need



Allocation based on other criteria

## Basic Need

## Maintenance

Free Schools, Studio Schools and UTCs

'Pure' Basic Need  
£840m

TBN  
£270m (total programme cost = £820m)

Maintenance capital and VA maintenance  
£750m

ACMF  
£390m

DFC  
£200m

Other maintenance  
£75m

PSBP  
£400m (total programme cost £2bn over 5 years)



# James Review – strategic planning

## Strategic Planning of capital funds as a general concept is desirable:

- It allows prioritisation of limited resources
- Capital projects are often lengthy, costly and difficult to forecast across a single facility, or in a single year
- Strategic planning at an appropriate local level can incorporate relevant knowledge and expertise of the estate

## Strategic planning can be achieved in a number of ways:

- Streamlining the number of funding streams
- Grouping institutions
- Longer term allocations

Ultimately, the concept of a single pot and ‘local panel’ to oversee allocations has not been pursued, because of the mismatch with wider government policy objectives, the changing schools landscape, and the additional infrastructure/bureaucracy that would need to be put in place to manage the allocation process



# James Review – standardised design

A selection of 13 Baseline Designs have now been published

- The designs are whole-school drawings rather than extensions or single blocks
- The designs were developed by looking at over 200 schools and post-occupancy analysis of recently built schools to identify successful features, with further input sought from contractors and other stakeholders

The Baseline Designs do not go as far as the original Review perhaps envisaged – they are a starting point for discussion rather than an off-the-shelf design.

However, the rationale for this seems sensible

- It ensures contractors remained on-risk for the design element of the build
- It ensures the Department does not impose solutions, or suppress innovation
- The majority of the benefits from standardised designs have been ‘banked’



# Basic need – the next allocation

We intend to make another basic need allocation based on SCAP 2013. We want to

- Keep a lot of the methodology the same - we will continue to use planning areas, and to look at shortfall
- Take account of previous funding – including 13-15 allocations, and places created through TBN and free schools
- Make a longer-term allocation to give you a better planning horizon, but to be prepared if any LA faces a sudden and unexpected increase in demand for places.





# Maintenance – next steps

We will not have final results from the Property Data Survey until next year, and so are going to allocate funding for 2014-15 on the same per-pupil basis as last year.

As with basic need, we recognise that you want a longer planning horizon, and so we want to work towards multi-year allocations.



# You've also asked about...



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# Special Educational Needs

We recognise the increased number of pupils with SEN, and with more complex needs – this has an impact on the places and facilities needed in mainstream and special schools. We presented this data to the Treasury as part of the negotiations about our future capital settlement.

We recognised demand for additional places in special schools within the Targeted Basic Need programme: we had 96 bids for special schools/units, and have funded 78 projects, which will create c3,100 new places.

There is no specific SEN funding stream or programme, because we do not want to drive specific decisions about the pattern of provision in local areas.



# Questions and comments?

I'm happy to talk now and/or after this session

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