

EBDOG

Education Building Development Officers Group
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Dear Colleague

Cost of School Buildings - National Benchmarking Study

Please find the link below to version 16 of the national benchmarking study for 2021/22.

This study continues to analyse the capital cost of building new school places across the country and is the largest national study of its kind comparing the like for like cost of school buildings delivered by Local Authorities and the DfE. Projects include school extensions, new schools, free schools and other DfE led schemes. In this study:

- Participating LAs has increased from 150 to 159
- School sample size has increased from 1007 to 1111 since the last report – an increase of 10%
- The total value of schemes in the report is now £6.40bn up from £5.57bn in the last report

The support of individual LAs and the DfE is essential to the value and credibility of this exercise providing the actual cost of school projects including cost per place, gross and net costs. The benchmarking work has covered every region of England and is a consistent data set that can be used in developer negotiations.

The current data included in this report is not reflective of delivering school projects to a zero-carbon standard. With the RIBA setting Climate Challenge targets and the DfE's latest framework incorporating a new Output Specification which will achieve zero carbon in use. It is anticipated that future benchmarking studies will include schools with low embodied carbon (with an agreed standard measure) and low operational running costs especially as some projects are now moving towards delivery.

At the moment, the BCIS Quarterly briefing from May 2022 advises; Tender prices in 1st quarter 2022 rose by 1.5% compared with the previous quarter, and by 6.4% on an annual basis. Strong cost pressures are forecasted over the next year which will further push up increases in tender prices. There is obvious volatility in the forecasting and this will be updated in the 2023 report.

The study has been welcomed and supported by the Cabinet Office and the Department for Education and is also used by the DfE to help negotiate future education capital settlements with Treasury. It is important that we continue this trend of publishing both local and central government costs in a coherent and standardised manner. The latest report is available at: [F07125-National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking - Primary, Secondary and SEN Schools - July 2022 ver16 \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/f07125-national-school-delivery-cost-benchmarking-primary-secondary-and-sen-schools-july-2022-ver16)

I would like to seek your assistance in supporting the 2022/23 study which will cover primary, secondary and SEN school costs. The data you supply will be treated confidentially and you will receive a copy of the next iteration of the report when it is updated and published. No authority will be associated to any individual costs, as only average sample costs are published.

Further submission instructions and project criteria for the study can be found on the standard cost form attached. **Returns are requested by Friday 19 November 2022**, to Michael.Raven@eastriding.gov.uk or dimitri.eleftheriou@hants.gov.uk

Please contact Dimitri should you have any queries or need an extension of time.

I do hope you will continue to support this study and trust you find the latest publication of value.

Yours sincerely



Peter Colenutt MBE
Vice Chair of EBD OG National Executive - www.ebdog.org.uk