

Building schools
for the future



ICT Bidders

Information



The Kirklees district

Kirklees is a large area in West Yorkshire made up of many urban and rural communities sitting between South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. Covering around 400 square kilometres, taking in areas of the Peak District National Park to the south and bordering Leeds and Bradford in the north, our towns and valleys have their own strong and distinct identities and contain a rich and diverse mixture of cultures and faiths. This diversity, coupled with our complex links to major regional centres, creates a unique set of opportunities and challenges for our district.

Kirklees incorporates the university town of Huddersfield and the towns of Batley and Dewsbury in the north. The arts and creative economy are recognised as industries of strength in Kirklees and are concentrated in five main sectors – crafts, design, media, music, and visual and performing arts. Huddersfield is the hub of the creative economy in the district, but there are a significant number of creative businesses in the north Kirklees, Batley and Dewsbury corridor and in Mirfield.



Kirklees Council

Kirklees is a metropolitan single tier authority, with a population of 400,000. It is the 13th most populous local authority in the UK and the 4th not based on a major city. At Kirklees Council, we have a Leader and Cabinet structure. The Administration has a very clear sense of direction and its ambitions and priorities aim to make Kirklees a place where residents live in strong, safe and healthy communities; in an atmosphere of fairness and opportunity for all; with good, secure and better paid jobs; and with a reduced carbon impact. There are 69 councillors from 23 wards.

Kirklees BSF Programme

Kirklees Building Schools for the Future is a programme that will transform the way we learn and teach in Kirklees. It is promoting a radical rethink in our schools about learning and how teaching can best support new ways of learning. Our secondary school programme rolls out in three main phases - the first focuses on north Kirklees. The preparation, initial design and procurement work for this has already begun. We are on track to start building work in our first BSF schools in early 2012. It is anticipated that phases two and three will follow directly on from each other, starting once the north Kirklees buildings are underway.

Our priorities for the programme are to:

- Take advantage of new spaces, facilities and ICT to apply a personalised approach to learning, supported by new ways in which schools will be organised
- Make sure we are able to meet the needs of all learners, and provide specific support to our most vulnerable and hard to reach groups
- Challenge under performing schools, applying solutions, strengthening leadership and developing innovative, collaborative approaches to support improvement
- Ensure that schools have the facilities, pastoral structures and strategic support, to work closer with other agencies and providers; enhancing the role of schools in their local communities
- Develop a pattern of school provision, including admission arrangements, which embraces and promotes social and community cohesion and encourages different communities to mix

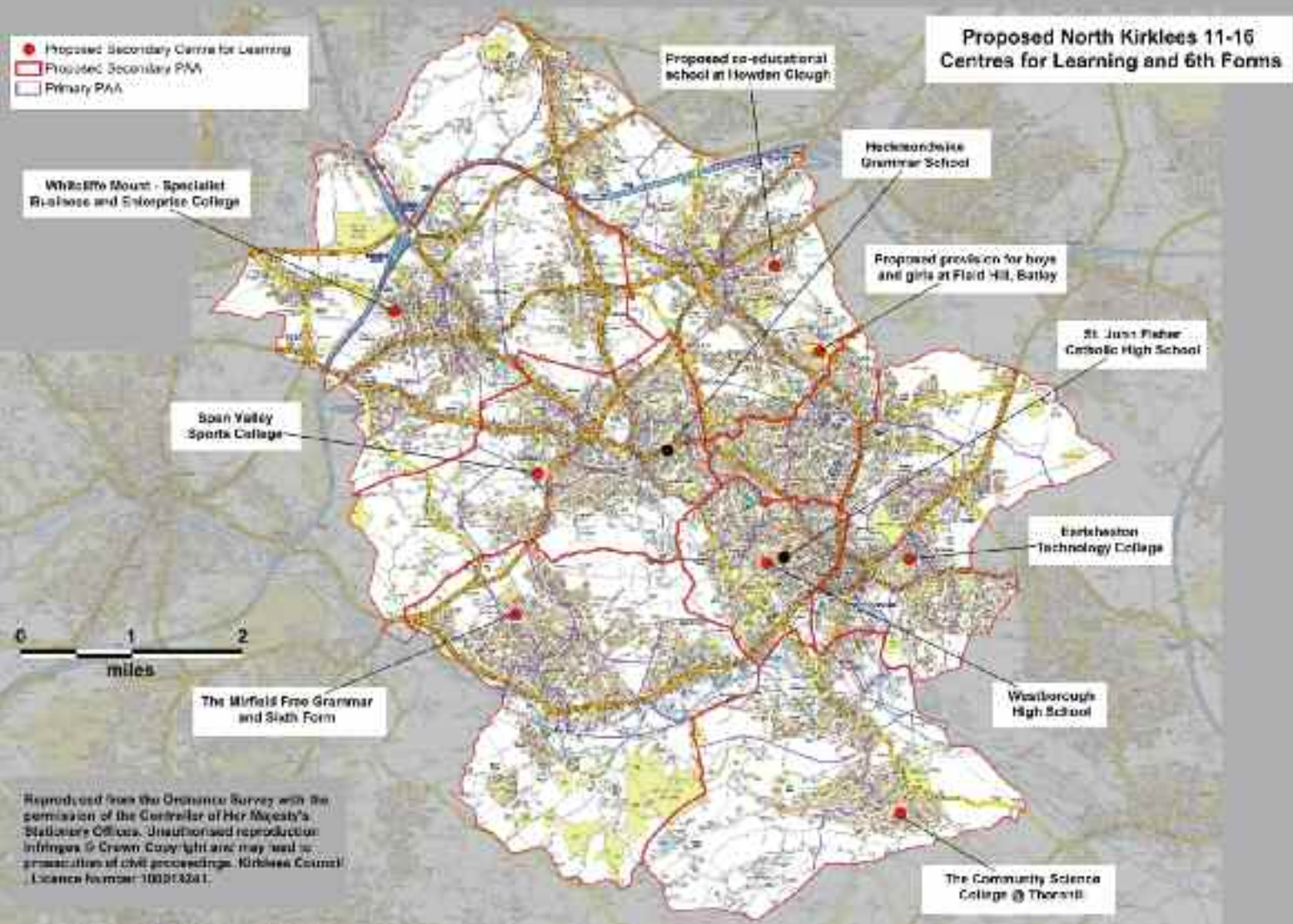
Central to the BSF programme is Information & Communication Technology (ICT). It is a critical part of transforming teaching and learning so students can have a flexible and personalised learning experience.



Our schools

Within north Kirklees – phase one of the BSF programme – there are 11 secondary schools, two special schools and one Pupil Referral Unit. Two of the secondary schools and both special schools are part of a current PFI contracts.

Following BSF investment, the new secondary schools will have between 1,200 and 1,500 pupils in the 11-16 year old age range. The specialisms across the schools include languages, visual arts, business & enterprise and technology.




Our educational vision and how ICT fits and supports our vision

The power of ICT will be harnessed to enhance teaching, learning and school administration. It will be used to facilitate greater personalisation of learning by supporting a wider range of learning styles and a broader more personalised curriculum with opportunities for learning anytime and anywhere. To achieve this ambition, all learners should have a personal learning device providing access to their own online learning space and high quality learning resources, appropriate to their age and ability, through a safe and secure broadband connection.

Standards throughout the curriculum will be raised by using ICT to support learning:

- “Anytime, anywhere” learning, not limited by time and place, for pupils and adults
- Personal curriculum with access, through ICT, to courses from different providers (local, regional, national and international)
- Improving basic skills for life: key learning skills and the skills needed to flourish in an information-based and ever-changing workplace
- Improved motivation, attendance and behaviour in class
- ICT embedded in the learning process providing the means of creating, collaborating, problem-solving, presenting and assessing learning
- Wider range of learning styles supported, more adapted to individual preferences
- Broader, more relevant academic and vocational curriculum provision facilitated by ICT with more individual choice to pursue personal interests
- Improve ICT skills of the wider community to raise aspirations, reduce unemployment and contribute to the prosperity of the community





As the Council's North Kirklees BSF Project will currently focus on re-modelling, refurbishment and extension projects this has led to agreement that Kirklees will undertake a single procurement approach through a "Thin LEP". The focus will be on delivering core projects and services as well as key PfS requirements. Therefore the LEP will predominately focus its activities on:

- Development and delivery of school building Projects using a Design and Build approach.
- Development and delivery of a managed and integrated ICT Service.

Scope of the ICT Managed Service

The ICT Partner, which will be appointed as part of the LEP procurement process, will be expected to: provide detailed technical design services for the ICT hardware installations within the schools; arrange for the supply, installation and commissioning of the ICT hardware and equipment (including legacy equipment) in the new or refurbished buildings; and provide an ICT Managed Service for the schools. The Local Authority will continue to provide schools with broadband connectivity to local and regional networks, the internet and the National Education Network.

It should be noted that there could be some transfers of staff to the private sector partner in the LEP (under the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) Legislation) in relation to the ICT managed services. There will be full provision of information and consultation with unions and employees as the Council considers what services will be provided by the LEP.

Extracts from the draft Output Specification

There are eight distinct areas which make up the Kirklees BSF ICT Output Specification. In this section, we've included the main priorities for Kirklees against each area to give you an insight into what we want from our ICT Partner.

1. Personalisation of curriculum and learning

- Apply new technologies in order to develop engaged, e-confident learners with raised aspirations and the skills to employ a wide range of learning styles, and ensuring pupils have the requisite ICT skills
- Establish a common, Kirklees-wide Learning Platform, fully integrated with a single Management Information System (MIS) which facilitates co-operation and collaboration between all schools, other educational institutions, vocational providers and the LA to support enhanced curriculum provision.
- Ensure learners have access to appropriate high quality, media-rich content which supports their personalised learning, being carefully designed for all ages and abilities of learners and covering all aspects of the curriculum
- Integrate legacy content and learning resources into the learning platform
- ensure the provision of facilities encourages the use of ICT to broaden pupils' experiences and understanding of the world beyond their immediate environment to help them develop as global citizens, collaborating with local, national and international partners

2. Inclusion and special needs

- At the heart of our vision for personalisation is the equipping of all teachers and pupils with a personal computer and broadband access to the internet. Equipment should have the capacity to connect to the Kirklees community-wide wireless broadband network so that all students can take advantage of the widest range of learning opportunities.

- Provide the technology to support those:
 - who have special or additional educational needs
 - who require assistive technology
 - who are socially deprived
 - who are not educated in school e.g. anxious non-attenders, excluded children, young mothers, children in hospital, house-bound adults and children on extended holidays,
 - for whom English is not their first language

3. 14-19 Continuity

- Work with partners to establish a network infrastructure which enables mobile or flexible location working – for example in support of a multi-location 14-19 curriculum. The bidder shall provide solutions which ensure secure interoperability with business, FE and community partners so that users have access to common services, including the learning platform, regardless of location.

4. Wider children's services agenda

- The ICT solution must place a particular emphasis on safeguarding pupils, parents and staff in a digital world. Systems must ensure that all users are provided with a safe and secure environment when using the school network, the internet and other ICT resources. Schools should have effective systems in place to deal successfully with reported incidents. Staff, students and parents must be made aware of e-safety issues and develop safe and discriminating behaviour when using technology to keep themselves from harm. They must have access to materials and guidance to help ensure their welfare and safety.
- Secure authentication and consistent identity management will be used to ensure information is only available to appropriate users.

5. Management and administration

- Provide a high quality managed service for ICT which covers equipment procurement, replacement and maintenance, which includes onsite technical support, to ensure learners and teachers have access to their learning spaces at the point of need. Steps will be taken to ensure safe storage of equipment and prevention of theft.
- Provide a Learning Platform, with integrated MIS, to effectively and securely manage school data.

6. CPD and Change Management

- Work with training partners and the LA advisory service to :

- provide support for school leaders to develop a clear vision and strategic understanding of the transformational role of ICT in order to become an e-mature school which is fully engaged in "next generation learning"
- develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of teachers, support staff and school leaders to ensure they can fully embrace new ways of learning and working and become confident users of the learning platform and MIS systems.
- support the introduction of new technology into the classroom, and assist schools in developing new processes which maximise the benefits of the ICT facilities
- provide an extensive continuing professional development (CPD) programme for all adults facilitating learning, to ensure they have the requisite ICT skills to support e-learners.

7. Community access and use of ICT resources

- We expect the Learning Centre will be a learning hub where ICT facilitates engagement and collaboration with different social groups in the community and draws upon local skills and knowledge, taking due regard to safeguarding issues.
- Provide ICT systems to facilitate home/school communication and ensure parents and carers have easy access to a full range of information that enables them to support their children's and their own learning needs.
- Ensure that systems are in place to enable school-based ICT facilities to be accessed by families who have no home access to the Internet.

8. Implications for design of physical learning environment

- Close communication between architects, M&E contractors and ICT contractor ensures that power and data infrastructure reflects the requirements of individual schools.
- Ensure there is a fast, robust and secure network available throughout the schools and their grounds, comprising a wired core network supplemented as necessary by wireless access points for the hard to reach areas.
- Ensure that specialist subject accommodation, including sport facilities, takes into account the different subject requirements for ICT.
- Meet the school requirements for the installation of display technologies in public areas and circulation spaces and the provision of interactive teaching technologies in learning spaces.

What we want from you

We want our ICT partner to:

- Be flexible and offer support and strength to our schools and partners
- Understand our vision, mission and purpose with as much clarity as we do
- Be innovative and creative with ideas and solutions
- Challenging – tell us when we're wrong or can do things in a better or different way

And we will be:

- Clear and honest about what we want from you
- Challenging – we will say whether we think things can and should be better
- Supportive and open to your ideas and suggestions

Next steps

At BETT you had a chance to chat with people from Kirklees about the BSF Programme. Those conversations, along with this document you should give you an insight into Kirklees, our hopes and ambitions for BSF and how you as a provider can help us reach our goals.

Hopefully you now have a sense of who and what we are and that we're a great, friendly, bunch of people who have a wide range of skills and expertise. We are dedicated to working together and committed to making Kirklees a better place for all our citizens now and in the future.

In the coming weeks we'll be holding more detailed conversations with interested bidders to help give you a clear understanding and vision for our requirements. We'll happily answer your questions. In March this year, we'll hold an open day for bidders where you will get more information about our schools, the bidding process, what we want and have the opportunity to delve deeper into Kirklees and see for yourself what we're about.

The Council intends to submit its Outline Business case to PFS in April 2010 and the procurement process to establish the LEP is estimated to commence around June 2010.

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