

DCSF – Press Notice – 3 March 2009

£919m ACCELERATION FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS IN NEXT 12 MONTHS

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Excerpts from full article

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- THOUSANDS OF MODERNISATION AND SMALLER BUILDING PROJECTS TO START EARLY -
- BIG BOOST FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND LOCAL ECONOMY -
- ED BALLS AND JIM KNIGHT WELCOME TREASURY PFI INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SECTOR BUILDING -

Thousands of school modernisation projects across England can start 12 months early after £919 million was brought forward to boost the construction industry, Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Schools Minister Jim Knight announced today.

More than 100 local authorities in England will share £499m brought forward from 2010-11 to the coming financial year.

Mr Balls has also accelerated another £390m of capital funding devolved to direct to every school head in England to invest in smaller projects as they see fit – from building new classrooms or science laboratories to fitting out new gyms or ICT facilities. The announcement is a key plank of the Government's fiscal stimulus package to boost the economy in the current downturn.

Children's Secretary Ed Balls said: "Today's measures are a vital boost for our unprecedented school building programme – with an immediate cash boost over the next year to accelerated smaller modernisation projects, alongside further longer-term financial support for the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF). The construction industry is one of the keys to a strong economy. We will never forgive ourselves if we turn our back on it during the current tough times and do not sustain it for the future".