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Decisions on the disposal of school land

Updated 30 January 2015

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Between November 2001 and April 2010, approval was given to the disposal of 242 playing fields. The list below provides detail of approvals since May 2010

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1.

List of approved applications

Local authority	Date	School	Reason for decision
LB Croydon Council	Approved May 2010	Waddon Infant School	The school closed and merged with Duppas Junior School to form the new Aerodrome School. The Waddon school site has been redeveloped along with other non-educational property in the area, to fund a new leisure centre which includes a new swimming pool, sports hall and open space for the community. The remaining proceeds from the sale have been used to fund Aerodrome School's outdoor and indoor sports facilities.
LB Croydon Council	Approved May 2010	Red Gates School	The school has relocated to the site of the former Gilbert Scott Infant School and uses their playing fields. Proceeds from the sale of the site were put towards the nearby new Aerodrome School sports facilities.
Hampshire County Council	Approved May 2010	Warblington School	The school is leasing land to a local hockey club who will develop the hockey pitch for school and community use.
North Somerset Council	Approved June 2010	St Katherine CE Primary	Closed school site. Proceeds used to fund sports improvement at Winford School, including resurfacing the playground and redesigning hard and soft play areas at Winford School.
Cheshire West & Chester Council	Approved Sept 2010	Highfield Primary School	The school disposed of an area of surplus playing field land. The proceeds will be used to extend and remodel the main school building, and to provide new outdoor sports facilities at the school consisting of a climbing wall, nature reserve area and an assault course. The school retained 20,391m ² of playing field land – the equivalent of about 3 football pitches.
Buckinghamshire	Approved	Great Marlow	The school disposed of a small area of

County Council	Sept 2010	School	marginal, triangular-shaped sloping land that was not suitable as playing field. Proceeds were allocated to fund an all-weather pitch, new hard court play area and the relocation of a tennis court.
Kent County Council	Approved Sept 2010	Beaver Green Primary	Following consolidation of two school sites into one, this site was surplus. The proceeds of the sale funded a new playing field and hall at Eastchurch Primary School and a new playing field for Archbishop Courtenay Primary School.
Plymouth City Council	Approved Sept 2010	High View School	Surplus site following amalgamation (and reconstruction of a new site) of Highfield & Plym View schools. The proceeds of the sale were reinvested into sports facilities at the new single-site school.
Rochdale MBC	Approved Nov 2010	Heywood High School	Closed school site. Rochdale council retained 52,500m ² – the equivalent of around seven football pitches - for local community use. Proceeds of the sale of the disposed area contributed to the local authority's Building Schools for the Future programme for sports provision.
Plymouth City Council	Approved Nov 2010	Estover Primary School	Part of a redevelopment project to form a campus combining Estover Community College, Estover Primary School, Downham Special School and the Plymouth Hospital and Outreach School. The entire proceeds of sale were used towards the new campus, including sports pitches, an all-weather pitch, a multi-use games area, soft and hard informal and social space.
Plymouth City Council	Approved Nov 2010	Estover College	Refurbishment of Estover Primary & Community College campuses. (See line above).
Staffordshire County Council	Approved Feb 2011	Woodhouse Middle School	Sale of surplus untended grassland on the school site that had not been used for sport for five years. Proceeds used to support improved changing facilities

and a new library.

Stockton-on-Tees BC	Approved Feb 2011	Saltergill Special School	Closed school site. Proceeds of sale to be fully invested in the improvement of drainage to sports pitches at Conyers School and the redevelopment of the cricket changing pavilion at Eggescliffe School.
Worcestershire County Council	Approved Feb 2011	Dingleside Middle School	Closed school site sold as part of a local redevelopment. Proceeds of sale fully invested in sports improvements at up to 15 local schools
West Berkshire	Approved May 2011	The Winchcombe Primary School	Closed school site following consolidation onto a single site. Proceeds of sale invested in Winchcombe School and a multi-use games area for Trinity School.
London Borough of Brent Council	Approved July 2011	Kingsbury High School	Disposal was by way of a lease to a private company that redeveloped and improved the schools playing field that was subject to poor drainage and under used. Funding introduced all-weather playing surfaces comprising of 5-a-side and 7-a-side pitches, a full sized football and hockey pitch and a six-court indoor tennis facility. The school will receive income from private hire of facilities outside school hours, to invest in future sports provision.
Gateshead Council	Approved July 2011	Lord Lawson of Beamish	Disposal of an area of land by lease to Birtley Athletics Club to improve sporting provision for the club and the school. Although consent was given to this project, it did not go ahead
London Borough of Havering Council	Approved Oct 2011	Dunningford Primary School	Closed school site. Entire proceeds to contribute to newly built Elm Park Primary, including sports provision which consists of a multi-use games court, junior football pitch and hard play areas.
Nottinghamshire County Council	Approved Oct 2011	Clarbrough Primary School	This was originally a school based on two sites. A rebuild of the school meant one site became surplus. The money has been earmarked for sports

facilities at other local schools.

South Tyneside Council	Approved Nov 2011	Highfield Infant School	Closed school site. Proceeds to be reinvested into new and improved sports facilities at Harton Primary School, which include a nature reserve, external play equipment and general enhancements to the existing multi-use games areas.
North Yorkshire County Council	Approved Dec 2011	Langcliffe Primary School	Closed school site. The proceeds of sale are to be invested in improvements to changing rooms at Settle College.
North Yorkshire County Council	Approved Dec 2011	Low Bentham Primary School	Closed school site. Proceeds invested in sports provision at the refurbished High Bentham School.
Staffordshire County Council	Approved Feb 2012	Pear Tree Primary School	Two disposals (See Nursery Fields Primary) of closed school sites. Proceeds reinvested in school sports provision including Rugely Leisure Centre swimming pool and the extension of an all-weather pitch. Any remaining to be invested in local school sports improvements.
Staffordshire County Council	Approved Feb 2012	Nursery Fields Primary School	See line above
Hampshire County Council	Approved Mar 2012	St Peters CoE Junior School	Closed school site. All proceeds reinvested in Cranford Park Primary to form team game playing fields and to develop a new external environmental teaching area.
North Yorkshire County Council	Approved Apr 2012	Ingleton Middle School	Closed site on reorganisation from 3 to 2 tier system. The proceeds will be reinvested in changing room facilities at Settle College.
Chester West & Chester Council	Approved May 2012	Gorsthills Primary	Closed school site. The proceeds are to be reinvested into sports provision at several local schools, including the installation of a new playing field drainage system, developing a new outside play area and provision of tennis and netball courts.

London Borough of Camden Council	Approved Jul 2012	Netley Primary School	The local authority is to sell a small part of the school's land (550m ²). It wants to redevelop a unit for vulnerable children which neighbours the school and improve the primary school's facilities by bringing together the foundation stage and other areas of the school, the PPRU and Development Centre into a single new building, to improve educational provision and enhance their role in the local community. Reconfiguration will bring a brand new school building, and allow an increase to the hard-surface games courts, hard play areas and habitat areas at the school.
Surrey County Council	Approved Jul 2012	Cranleigh Primary School	The old school site is being disposed of and a new, purpose-built school is being developed around 500 yards from the existing location. The new school will have significantly enhanced sporting provision which will include a new school gym.
Wandsworth Council	Approved Aug 2012	Elliott School	The school's sporting facilities are dilapidated and out of date. The sale will fund a new Multi-Use Games Area to host competitive sports fixtures such as football matches, which they cannot currently do. They will also replace their old gym with a state-of-the-art indoor facility with four sports courts.
	Approved Aug 2012	Newquay Tretherras Academy	This academy is an amalgamation of two schools and some facilities are duplicated and too small for the current number of pupils and the school's curriculum needs. The proceeds from the disposal of surplus playing fields will be used to generate new playing areas, drain current playing fields which currently have limited use, and substantially rebuild and modernise its buildings, creating a state-of-the-art science lab and a community theatre.
Essex County Council	Approved Oct 2012	Passmores Technology College	The school has moved to a brand new school site, Passmore's Academy, so its original site is surplus to requirements. The proceeds will be put

towards the new facilities at Passmore's Academy including a new gym, an all-weather pitch and new recreation areas.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	Approved Oct 2012	Windsor Girls School	Some of the playing field land is rarely used by the school because of poor drainage. This area (around 1,340m ² , less than 3% of the school's playing field) will be sold to the adjacent hospice. The proceeds will be spent on a new sports hall for the school, and the school will retain more than 44,600m ² of playing field land – the equivalent of around six football pitches.
North Yorkshire County Council	Approved Oct 2012	Netherside Hall Special School	Closed school site. The pupils have transferred to the refurbished Forest Moor Special School in Harrogate. The proceeds will be put towards the cost of the new sports hall at Forest Moor School.
Birmingham City Council	Approved Nov 2012	Langley Special School	Closed school site. The pupils have transferred to brand new purpose built accommodation and share the campus with Coppice Primary School. The proceeds will be put towards its new indoor/outdoor sports provisions as well as the new school building.
	Approved Nov 12	Folkestone Academy	The land to be disposed of is an old primary school. The Academy expanded in 2009 and merged with the primary school, which remained at its existing site. The intention is to move the primary school into newly completed buildings on the main Folkestone Academy site. The proceeds of the sale will be put towards the cost of the new school. The new academy facilities include a multi-use games area, cricket nets, two grass pitches and an all-weather pitch. In addition, the primary aged pupils will have their own playground areas accessed from their teaching areas and secured from the secondary pupils.

Durham County Council	Approved Jan 13	Hamsteels Primary School	The school closed in 2007 and pupils transferred to nearby Esh Winning Primary School. There are no schools within one mile and none that want to use the site. There are no community users, and at consultation there were no objections to the disposal of the playing field. Proceeds to be used to provide a new indoor gym and music room at Elemore Hall School.
	Approved Feb 13	Baxter College	The disposal will enable the construction of a new special school. Benefits to the Academy include a new multi-use games area, access to a new 13 room science block replacing dilapidated mobile classrooms, an early years hub and a vocational hub. The special school's new pitch, hydrotherapy pool and small sports hall will be available to the community out of hours.
Essex County Council	Approved Feb 13	Maltings Academy	The council are disposing of a hard play area, by lease, to Braintree District Council who will build a new £9m sports centre building. The school, other local schools and the wider community will benefit from this new facility.
Rochdale MBC	Approved Feb 13	Balderstone Technical College	The school closed in July 2010 due to a LA re-organisation. The LA are retaining a large team game playing field area which will be used by the community and other schools. The proceeds of sale will contribute towards a 3G Multi Use Games Area at the nearby Kingsway Park High School.
Liverpool City Council	Approved Feb 13	New Heys Comprehensive School	The school closed in July 2010. The only group using the playing field land was the Enterprise South Liverpool Academy, who will migrate to a brand new building which will open in July. The proceeds of sale will be put towards the re-building of two existing schools (St. John Bosco Arts College & Our Lady & St. Swithin's Primary

School) onto one site. The new sports facilities will include the remodelling of a sports hall and provision of a multi-use games area.

Warwickshire County Council	Approved Feb 13	Griff Special School	The school closed in 2005. The playing field is not used by the community. The council wish to provide the land to a housing charity, as part of a major extra-care housing scheme for elderly residents. As there are to be no proceeds of sale, we have made approval conditional on the Council investing an amount equal to the value of the playing field into education and sport, based on the advice of the playing fields advisory panel.
	Approved Mar 13	Ryden's	The Academy Trust is selling the nursery school to the existing nursery provider together with its playground which will remain in use by children attending the nursery. The proceeds of sale will be used for essential repairs and a feasibility study to redevelop the academy estate.
Surrey County Council	Approved Apr 13	Therfield School	The Council wishes to sell an old, dilapidated tennis court and a small area of marginal playing field (around 0.9% of the school's provision). The proceeds of sale will be invested in a new tennis court and will part-fund a new dance and drama hall, improving sports and recreational facilities at the school. The school will retain over 121,000m ² of playing field land – the equivalent to around 17 football pitches.
Dorset County Council	Approved Apr 13	Milldown Primary	The school closed in 2010 and the pupils relocated to new premises. The proceeds of sale will go towards the provision of a synthetic turf pitch close to the new Milldown School.
Liverpool City Council	Approved May 2013	Croxteth Comprehensive School	The school closed in 2010. The land will be sold and the proceeds of the sale used to help rebuild St John Bosco Arts College. This will include

			the remodelling of the sports hall and multi-use games area.
Liverpool City Council	Approved May 2013	Ashfield Special School	The school closed in 2004. The land to be sold consists of sloping marginal land. The proceeds of sale will be used as part of a capital project to rebuild Holly Lodge Girl's College, specifically by funding the remodelling of the sports hall and Multi-Use Games Area.
Sandwell Council	Approved May 2013	Yew Tree Primary School (Fir Tree Annex)	The school previously operated from two separate sites. When the two sites merged a new eight classroom block and enhanced sports facilities, including a new sports pitch and a multi-use games area, were built on the original Yew Tree Primary School site. The Fir Tree Annex closed and the proceeds of sale will pay for the new facilities.
	Approved June 2013	Uxbridge Academy	The academy has leased playing fields to a local football club who will invest over £2 million in new footballing facilities, for academy pupils to use during school hours. The football club also offers specialist coaching to academy pupils.
	Approved June 2013	William Howard	The adjacent independent infant school bought a small piece of land from the Academy for outdoor play. The land was at a bottom of a hill so not easily used by the academy, but it is of significant benefit as outdoor play space for the infant school.
London Borough of Barnet	Approved July 2013	The Compton Academy	The academy has leased playing fields to a private sports operator to replace the existing operator, for use as a community sports facility. There is no loss of land available to pupils during school hours and the operator will make significant investment in improvements, including a complete refurbishment of the existing sports centre facilities, fitness suite and changing rooms which will benefit the pupils of the academy. A formal

community user agreement will be put in place to allow the wider community to have access to the facilities.

Surrey County Council	Approved July 2013	Yattendon School	The Governing Body wished to dispose of surplus playing field land in order to fund a range of improvements to the school. These include a new all-weather pitch, ICT facilities, library facilities, improved disabled access and facilities, and toilet facilities. The surplus land that was disposed of was regularly waterlogged and unable to be used in poor weather conditions. The all-weather pitch will increase the availability of sporting facilities for pupils.
London Borough of Islington	Approved July 2013	Moreland Primary School	The school is relocating to a new site. The proceeds of sale of the old site will fund the new school, nursery and children's centre. The sporting facilities on the new site will be of far greater quality and area than on the old, confined site. Those facilities include a multi-use games area, a dedicated hard play area and indoor hall space which will facilitate gym, soft ball games and dance for the pupils.
North Tyneside Council	Approved July 2013	Parkside Special School	The site closed in 2008 after the school re-located to a new build. The Council performed extensive community consultation to try and secure a viable use for the unwanted site; but no options emerged. Proceeds from the sale of the playing fields will be invested specifically into sports and community facilities in two newly constructed primary schools, St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School and St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary School.
Gloucestershire County Council	Approved September 2013	Berry Hill School	Berry Hill School buildings require major repairs. The school is supported by The Lakers Family Co-Operative College Trust, and the governing body decided to relocate Berry Hill School onto the nearby Lakers School site, sharing the facilities to become an all-

age learning campus with both schools retaining their existing separate identities. The proceeds from the disposal of playing field land at the old Berry Hill site will be completely reinvested in the remodelling of the building and sports improvements at the school's new location.

East Sussex County Council	Approved September 2013	Sidley Community School	The school became Glenleigh Park Primary Academy and moved to a new, larger site in September 2012. Proceeds of sale of the surplus site will be used to provide a new multi-use games area at the Battle & Langton Church of England Primary School, and a new hard play surface at Etchingham School.
Warwickshire County Council	Approved October 2013	Coleshill Academy	The academy has leased playing fields to North Warwickshire Borough Council, who will provide pupils and the community with a £4.2 million investment in new indoor sporting facilities. The new leisure centre will be available to the academy during school hours.
	Approved November 2013	Churchfields Academy	The academy has granted a 10 year (non-renewable) lease of a small area of outdoor play space for a private nursery and so is still in educational recreational use. The academy will still exceed the minimum recommended guidelines for playing fields following the grant of the lease and the land will revert to the academy at lease expiry.
	Approved November 2013	Chauncy Academy	An area of playing field land will be sold and the proceeds used to improve a significant area of woodland to create playing field space and a sports hall that will be used by the local community when not in use by the pupils. Local schools will be able to access the facilities and a formal agreement with St Catherine's will provide access to the sports hall, a new nature trail and play areas. The academy will still exceed the minimum

recommended guidelines for playing fields following the disposal and have the benefit of the indoor sports hall.

Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Brookside Primary School	<p>Knowsley suffers from a very high water table which causes a variety of problems. A large number of Knowsley's playing fields are on compacted clay soil which has very poor drainage. Issues with school sites include rain water causing flooding to surrounding houses and gardens as well as school buildings, rain water flooding hard play areas and very limited use of school playing fields in winter months due to waterlogging. This means the majority of the sporting curriculum in Knowsley is delivered on hard play areas and assembly/sports hall(s) in winter months which has its limitations. Brookside Primary School closed in 2011 and merged with another local school on a new site with new sports facilities. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for sports games purposes. As a result of this there are no community users of this field and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at two local schools: St Aloysius Primary and St Aidens Primary will receive drainage improvements for their playing fields.</p>
Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Cherryfield Primary School	<p>The school closed in 2009 and merged with another local school on a new site with new sports facilities. The playing field at this closed school suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for sports games. As a result there are no community users of this field and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at three local schools: Kirkby Sports College and St John Fisher School will benefit from drainage improvements for their playing fields. Park Brow Primary will</p>

benefit by having some additional playing field created on its site.

Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Knowsley Northern Primary School	This school closed in 2011 and pupils merged with two local schools. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for sports games and as a result of this there are no community users of this field and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at four local schools: Eastcroft Park Primary, Saints Peter & Paul Primary and St Albert's Primary will benefit from improved drainage to their playing fields, as well as new fencing. Northwood Primary School will benefit from improved drainage of its playing field.
Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Knowsley Southern Primary School	This school closed in 2011 and pupils relocated to a new site with new sports facilities. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for sports games. As a result, there are no community users of this field and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at two local schools: Halewood Centre for Learning will benefit from improved drainage of its playing field and fencing around it. Cronton Primary School will have improved drainage of its playing field.
Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Mackets Primary School	This school closed in 2006 and pupils relocated to a nearby school. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for sports games. As a result there are no community users of this field and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at five local schools: Kirkby Primary School will benefit from new fencing on part of the site,

Knowsley Central and Halewood Primary will benefit from improved playing field drainage and new fencing. Holy Family Primary (Halewood) will benefit from improved playing field drainage and the hard play area will be resurfaced. Holy Family Primary (Cronton) will benefit from improved playing field drainage.

Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	Sacred Heart Primary School	This school closed in 2011 and pupils merged with two other schools and relocated to a new site. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for playing sports games. As a result there are no community users, and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at two local schools: St Laurence's Primary will benefit from the creation of additional hard play area and Westvale Primary will benefit from additional fencing around its playing field.
Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	St Agnes Primary School	This school closed in 2011 and the pupils merged with two other schools and pupils relocated to surrounding schools. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for playing sports games. As a result there are no community users, and no other schools wish to make use of this area. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at four local schools: Blacklow Brow Primary School, St Brigids Primary and Knowsley Village School will benefit from improved playing field drainage, and Mosscroft Primary School will benefit from the installation of fencing around its playing field area.
Knowsley Council	Approved November 2013	St Edmund Arrowsmith High School	This school closed in 2009 and the pupils relocated to a new site with new sports facilities. The playing field at this closed site suffers from poor drainage and is not fit for playing

sports games. As a result there are no community users. The capital receipt raised from the sale will go towards improving the sports provision at ten local schools: St Mary & St Paul's Primary School will receive improved drainage to its playing field and fencing. Whiston Willis Primary School will receive improved drainage and fencing for its playing fields and improvements to the existing hard play area. Prescott Primary School, Roby Park Primary School, Halsnead Primary School and St Leo's & Southmead Primary School will all benefit from improved their playing field drainage. Our Lady's Primary School will benefit from improved drainage and fencing and Evelyn Primary School will benefit from improved playing field drainage, as well as a contribution towards the creation of a new forest area for pupil learning. Park View School will benefit from improvements to the hard play and soft informal areas and St Gabriel's Primary School will benefit from extending an area of hard play, as well as drainage improvements to its playing field.

Durham County Council	Approved December 2013	Tudhoe Grange	This school closed in 2012. The pupils have transferred to Whitworth Park School and 6th Form College which has been rebuilt on the site of the former Spennymoor Comprehensive School. The capital receipt from the sale of this closed site will be put towards the school's new sports provisions as well as the new school building.
LB Hillingdon	Approved December 2013	Deanesfield Primary	The council wishes to transfer a small area of marginal land to the Queens Walk Learning Resource Centre to contribute to the creation of a new sensory and wellbeing garden. The land will remain in the council's ownership but within social services rather than education. In exchange the school will benefit from the creation of

an outside fitness trail. The school playing field will continue to exceed the minimum recommended area.

Approved December 2013	Ansford Academy	The academy has granted a 10 year lease of playing field land at the periphery of the site for community allotments which will be used by pupils for curriculum purposes. It will continue to exceed the minimum recommended area for playing fields following the grant of the lease and the land will revert to the academy at lease expiry.
Approved December 2013	Wrockwardine Wood Academy and Sutherland Academy	Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy and Sutherland Business Academy are to merge and move to new site provided by the Council at Oakengates. The existing sites which include playing field land will be transferred to Telford and Wrekin Council who will retain significant playing field land for community use, and sell the remainder of the sites to part-fund the new academy. The new academy will have playing fields together with soft and hard courts at the new site and use of leisure centre facilities. The playing field area will exceed the minimum recommended in guidelines.
Approved December 2013	Blessed Robert Johnson (Holy Trinity Academy)/Charlton Academy	The Blessed Robert Johnson school is to close and be replaced by a new ecumenical academy (the Holy Trinity Academy) on a new site (including playing field land) provided by the Council at Priorslee. The new academy trust will hold the land, which will include all the academy buildings and a new MUGA. The academy will also be granted a licence and a 125 year community use agreement of community playing fields next door to the site, with the community to be able to use the academy's facilities. With this land, the academy will exceed the DfE's minimum playing field guidelines by more than 60%. The governing body and diocese will transfer the

existing Blessed Robert Johnson school site to the Council, who will transfer all this land to provide a new site for Charlton Academy. The playing field land available to pupils at Charlton's new site will a significant improvement over its existing site. The Council will sell the existing Charlton Academy site to part-fund the new academy buildings at Holy Trinity and Charlton Academies.

<p>Approved December 2013</p>	<p>Phoenix Academy/ Captain Webb School</p>	<p>Phoenix Academy will move to a new site provided by Telford and Wrekin Council that includes playing field land. Pupils at the Phoenix Academy will have over 50% more playing field land available at the new site than the recommended minimum area in guidelines. Some playing field land from the former Phoenix Academy site will transfer to the Captain Webb Primary School which will then exceed the DfE's minimum guidelines for playing fields. Telford and Wrekin Council will sell the remainder of the former Phoenix site to part-fund the new academy buildings.</p>
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<p>Approved December 2013</p>	<p>Lakeside Academy/ Grange Park Primary School (and Bridge Special School)</p>	<p>Part of Lakeside Academy's existing site will be transferred to the council including playing field land. Land will be provided by the Council at the former site of the Bridge Special School for new buildings and playing fields. With the benefit of access to these playing fields, pupils at Lakeside will have access to four times the minimum areas of playing fields set out in guidelines. New school buildings will be constructed on the footprint of the former Lakeside Academy for Grange Park Primary School. Pupils at Grange Park will benefit from access to the facilities at Lakeside which lie next door. The Council will sell land at Grange Park Primary and part of the former Bridge Special School to part fund the rebuilding of Grange Park and Lakeside Academy. (Bridge School having already been rebuilt.).</p>
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Cornwall	Approved January 2014	Redruth School	This operating school will dispose, via lease, of a narrow strip of marginal land to an established Arts Centre adjacent the school site. This area of land will be part of a redevelopment of this arts facility and will enable a new access point and car park to be provided. The school will continue to exceed the recommended minimum area for playing fields and the land earmarked for disposal does not form part of the school sports pitch. The premium paid from the lease agreement will contribute towards the cost of developing changing room facilities at Redruth School.
	Approved January 2014	Whitley Academy	The disposal of playing field land to an independent school, Coventry Schools Foundation – King Henry VIII School. This was to compensate for the loss of playing field land following a compulsory purchase of its land as part of the A45 road widening scheme. After the sale, the academy will still have more than twice the minimum area of playing field land recommended in guidelines. The land to be sold will be subject to a restriction that it is to be used only for playing fields. Approval was granted subject to conditions, including that the proceeds will be ring-fenced for improving the academy's existing sporting facilities.
LB Islington	Approved April 2014	Ashmount Primary School	Ashmount Primary School has been relocated to new purpose built accommodation in Crouch Hill. EFA has agreed with Islington Council to use part of the old site as the location for Whitehall Park free school – set up in response to significant local demand, and the council will use part of the site to provide badly needed affordable housing in the borough. The playing field area available for Whitehall Park School will be made up of hard and soft play areas, a roof top play area and a multi-use games area.

This is more playing field land than was available on-site for the old Ashmount Primary School, because the former school buildings were sprawling and inefficient. In addition the council is installing an artificial pitch surface, and is upgrading the roof for roof top play.

Somerset Council	Approved May 2014	Bridgwater College Academy	Somerset Council will dispose of a small proportion of the academy's playing field land, which is subject to flooding and is regularly waterlogged. After the disposal the academy will continue to exceed the recommended minimum area of playing field land. Proceeds of sale will be used to contribute towards a new, on-site, full-size floodlit 3G artificial surface sports pitch, and to refurbish the existing sports hall floor.
Plymouth Council	Approved May 2014	Tamerton Vale Primary School	The school closed in 2008 following its amalgamation with Southway Primary School to form Beechwood Primary School, which then relocated to new premises. This closed site became surplus to the council's education requirements. The full proceeds of sale will be utilised to part-fund a new sporting facility hub which will be used by the local community and surrounding schools. The hub will consist of four pitches suitable for a range of age groups, together with changing facilities and on-site parking.
Plymouth Council	Approved May 2014	Southway Primary School	The school closed in 2008 following its amalgamation with Tamerton Vale Primary School to form Beechwood Primary School, which then relocated to new premises. This closed site became surplus to the council's education requirements. Some of the proceeds of the sale of the old site will part-fund a new sporting facility hub which will be used by the local community and surrounding schools. The hub will consist of four pitches suitable for a range of age groups, together with changing facilities and

			on-site parking. The remaining proceeds of sale will contribute to a new multi-use games area for the new build Knowle Primary School.
	Approved June 2014	Tolworth Girls' School and Sixth-Form	Disposal of a small area of playing field land will provide access to develop an unused area of land unsuitable for school use. Proceeds from development will include investment in new sporting facilities including a multi-use games area, running track and other athletics facilities, and to build new academy facilities to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers.
	Approved June 2014	Hertswood Academy	Consolidation of split-site school and disposal of one site. Most of the receipt is to be used to fund rebuilding of this academy on the retained site, to a more efficient footprint and new sports pitches and hall for pupil and community use.
Cornwall	Approved June 2014	Falmouth School	The school will dispose of part of a detached playing field. Part of the capital receipt will fund the purchase of a closed, adjacent former hospital site, and the school will convert this into playing fields thereby developing an effective self-contained site. The improvements will include a new 3G pitch, new grass pitches, access and maintenance buildings. There are two community users of the site and both support the development. After the proposed reconfiguration, the school will have almost double the recommended playing field area, together with improved quality of provision.
Cheshire West & Chester	Approved June 2014	Acorns Infant School	Acorns Infant School amalgamated with the adjacent Acorns Junior School and became Acorns Primary School. The former Acorns Infant site closed in 2011, the buildings were demolished and the site was fenced off and unused. The council will reinvest the

capital receipt from the sale of this surplus site into two local schools. Brookside Primary School will benefit from the provision of a new multi-use games area which can be used for play all year round, and Whitby High School will have their old shale pitch resurfaced and brought back into use.

Cheshire West & Chester	Approved June 2014	Handley Hill Primary School	Handley Hill closed in 2009 as part of the council's programme of rationalisation. The site was fenced off and unused. The council plans to reinvest the receipt raised from the sale of the land into 6 local schools: Over St John Primary School will have its sports and play facilities enhanced by resurfacing of the play area and provision of adventure equipment. St Joseph Primary School will be provided with an adventure play area, including new surfacing and trim trail equipment. Oaklands Primary School will benefit from a new outdoor safety surface, together with outdoor equipment for use by children with special needs. Winsford High Street School will benefit from improvements to changing and shower facilities. Darnhall Primary School will benefit from the provision of a new play zone and covered outdoor shelter which will extend the availability of the existing play area. Eaton Primary School will benefit from the provision of a new multi-use games area which will be available to use all year.
Knowsley Council	Approved June 2014	Bowring Sports College	Bowring Sports College and Knowsley Hey Comprehensive merged and formed the new Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning on the Knowsley Hey site. The old Bowring Sports College site closed in 2009. The proceeds of sale will be invested in 20 local school projects to improve the quality of playing field provision and enable schools to access playing fields all year round. Playing field drainage will be improved at The Sylvester School, Malvern School, St

Michael and All Angels Primary School, St Joseph Primary School, St Joseph the Worker Primary School and Newstead Centre. Playing field drainage and fencing will be improved at Plantation Primary School, Millbrook Primary School, St Margaret Mary Juniors, St Andrews Primary School, Huyton with Roby Primary School, St Lukes Primary School, St Anne's Primary School, Longview Community School, St Mark's Primary School, Alt Bridge Secondary Support Centre, Highfield Special School and St Columba Primary School. St Alberts Primary School will receive phase 2 of improvements to playing field drainage and fencing, and St Maries Primary School will receive investment in fencing, a habitat/nature area and playing field drainage.

Bradford Council	Approved July 2014	Braithwaite Special School	Braithwaite Special School closed in 2010 as part of local special school reorganisation. The proceeds of sale of an area of unused playing field at the former school site will be used, together with the proceeds from Heaton Royds, to enhance and improve the playing field provision at Long Lee Primary School as part of a larger expansion project.
Bradford Council	Approved July 2014	Heaton Royds Special School	Heaton Royds Special School closed in 2010 as part of local special school reorganisation. The proceeds of sale of an area of unused playing field at the former school site will be used, together with the proceeds from Braithwaite, to enhance and improve the playing field provision at Long Lee Primary School as part of a larger expansion project.
	Approved August 2014	Priory Federation	Sale of equestrian facility no longer required for curriculum purposes. The majority of the proceeds are to be used to invest in sports facilities at the remaining academies within the Priory Federation.

Halton Council	Approved September 2014	Fairfield High School	Fairfield High School closed in 2009 and all the pupils transferred to the nearby Wade Deacon High School. The proceeds of sale will be used towards the development of an all weather pitch, to improve the ICT provision and make improvements to the buildings and facilities such as improving access to the site at Fairfield Primary School.
Hertfordshire Council	Approved September 2014	Cheshunt School	The school will dispose of part of its existing playing field. The capital receipt raised will fund improvements which will include a new MUGA pitch with floodlighting, improved access to the swimming pool, new sports centre and refurbishment of existing school buildings. After the proposed reconfiguration, the school will still have considerably more than the recommended minimum playing field area, together with improved quality of provision.
	Approved October 2014	The Ferrers School	The disposal of a small area of playing field land to provide a public cycle path. The pupils will benefit from a safer route to school and this will also promote healthy lifestyles.
Suffolk County Council	Approved November 2014	Wetheringsett CE Primary School	Disposal of a small area of playing field land to the local parish council in order to relocate and build a better equipped community hall which the school will have access for use during school hours. The land currently occupied by the existing village hall will be converted back to school playing field land and the school will continue to have considerably more than the recommended minimum playing field area.
Durham County Council	Approved November 2014	Plawsworth Road Infant School	The school closed in 2013 and pupils were allocated places at the nearby Sacriston Primary School. The capital receipt raised from the disposal of the former school will contribute towards the expansion capital project at

Ludworth Primary School which includes the provision of a new classroom, toilets and creation of new access route around the school.

Barnsley Council	Approved November 2014	Worsborough St Mary's Primary	The school closed in 2007 and the site is in a poor condition. The capital receipt raised from the disposal of the site will provide a new fenced ball games area and contribute towards the cost of building a new sports hall as part of the expansion project at Worsbrough Common Primary School.
	Approved November 2014	Plume School	The disposal of a playing field not used by the academy as it is remote from its main sites. Community use will transfer to the main site where new facilities will be provided. The proceeds will contribute towards new sports facilities, including a new MUGA on its lower school site.
North Yorkshire County Council	Approved December 2014	Hirst Courtney and Temple Hirst Primary School	The school closed in 2014 and pupils were allocated places at Chapel Haddlesey Primary School. The proceeds of sale of the playing field land will contribute towards new outdoor playing equipment at Chapel Haddlesey Primary School.

2.

Other decisions

There have been 6 occasions where the panel has not approved the disposal but the government has. In every case money from the sale was earmarked to improve education and sports facilities in the local community.

2.1 Woodhouse Middle

The school wanted to sell surplus untended grassland that had not been used for sport for 5 years. The government approved the application and the money was dedicated to supporting a new library and improved changing facilities.

2.2 Clarborough Primary

This was originally a school based on two sites. A rebuild of the school meant one site became surplus. The government approved the sale of the surplus site and the money was earmarked for sports facilities at other local schools.

2.3 Elliott School

The school wants to enhance its academic and sporting provision. Its sporting facilities are dilapidated and out of date. The government approved the application. The sale will fund a new Multi-Use Games Area to host competitive sports fixtures such as football matches, which they cannot currently do. They will also replace their old gym with a state-of-the-art indoor facility with four sports courts.

2.4 Ingleton Middle

When the school was closed the site wasn't needed. The government approved the application. Proceeds from the sale were used to improve the changing rooms at Settle College.

2.5 Netley Primary

The local authority wants to sell a small part of the school's land. It wants to redevelop a unit for vulnerable children which neighbours the school and improve the primary school's facilities. The government approved the application. Delay could have affected the whole regeneration project with unhappy consequences for the children concerned.

2.6 Griff Special School

This land will be leased to a charity providing housing to senior citizens. We have agreed to this on the specific condition that council invests an amount equal to the value of the land in education or sport. The school itself has been closed for 8 years and the playing field land has not been used by a local school or the wider community in this time.

Sport England did not object to the council's planning application and at consultation, there were no objections to the loss of the unused playing field. The panel did not object to the actual loss of this unused playing field, but highlighted specifically that the proceeds of sale would be lost to sport or educational investment as this land will be 'peppercorn' leased to a housing association. Acting on the panel's advice we made this disposal conditional on the council investing an amount equal to the value of the school land, from funds not ring-fenced for education.

3.

Applications not approved for disposal

Local authority

School

Reason

Brighton & Hove City Council	Patcham High School	Application withdrawn
Cheshire East Council	Vernon Primary School	Application rejected
Cheshire West & Chester Council	Gorsthills Primary School	Application rejected and subsequently re-submitted
Warwickshire County Council	Michael Drayton Middle School	Application rejected
Liverpool City Council	Croxteth Comprehensive School	Application rejected and subsequently re-submitted
Northumberland Council	Berwick Academy	Application rejected
	Costello Academy	Application withdrawn
	Churchfields Academy	Application rejected

4.

Background to decisions

There are very strict controls around the disposal of school playing field land. It is not the government or the Department for Education that instigates the disposal of school playing fields. It is the schools themselves and their local authorities that propose to convert these often surplus or unused fields to invest in school sport or education. Local authorities must consult widely prior to making an application.

The government will only give local authorities and schools permission to dispose of school playing fields if the sports and curriculum needs of the school and its neighbouring schools can continue to be met. All proceeds of any sales must be put back into improving sports or educational facilities.

Schools and local authorities do not apply to sell playing fields, they seek consent from the Secretary of State for Education to dispose. A disposal can include a lease of the playing fields to a third-party organisation with the

fields, following investment and improvement, continuing to be used by the school.

The majority of consents since May 2010 are due to the closure or merger of an entire school site due to the re-organisation of education facilities by the local authority or academy trust. Some schools are leasing playing fields to sports clubs or others and will continue to use the playing fields. A small number of consents are in respect of small sections of playing field land that either isn't used by the school for sport or is not needed due to other facilities in place. No open school has disposed of its entire playing field, and in every case all of the money made by the local authority or school from the sale will be invested in local sports or education facilities. Every school must, by law, have access to enough playing field space to allow for its sports and curriculum needs to be met.

4.1 Olympic legacy

The government is determined to secure a significant and lasting legacy from the games, and to develop children's enjoyment of sport and physical activity from an early age. The government has demonstrated its commitment to this by providing over £450m of ring-fenced funding, which goes directly to primary schools to spend on improving PE and sport provision. Investment in the School Games also continues, with over 60% of schools now taking part. The School Games aims to enable every school and child to participate in competitive sport, including meaningful opportunities for young people with disabilities. Designed across 4 levels, for both primary and secondary pupils, it offers opportunities for young people to compete in intra-school, inter-school and regional competitions.

From February 2014 primary schools across England are able to apply for a share of an £18 million fund to improve outdoor spaces for PE and sporting activities. The lottery-funded scheme will be run by Sport England and will

prioritise schools with limited outside space and a strong commitment to PE and sport. The schools are expected to receive an average of £30,000 each to help them vastly improve their sports provision. The funding will make sure they have better equipment and facilities such as turning a concrete playground into a quality space for PE and sporting activities.

The significant investment in improvements in primary school provision is backed by cross-government and external activity in a range of areas, from health to physical activity to initial teacher training. All children should have the opportunity to lead healthy, active lifestyles; to participate in and enjoy sport and physical activity both within and outside school; and to compete against their peers.

A new pilot programme to produce a group of primary teachers who specialise in PE has seen 61 trainees complete the course, and 59 more began in January 2014. The total 120 specialist teachers, who will support other teachers to develop their skills and improve quality of PE teaching, will start in primary schools from September 2014. The training schools are currently recruiting for a further 120 trainees to start training in September 2014, which will mean over 200 specialist primary PE/sport teachers in post by September 2015.

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