

Key findings from previous (2017) study that may have implications for this study

Key findings from our previous study and what implications this has for this study – e.g. what areas were identified as high risk/ and what recommendations were raised which may require additional work in this study?

- £6.7bn was the estimated cost to returning all schools to a satisfactory condition in the 2017 report and £7.1bn to bring parts of school buildings from satisfactory to good condition.
 - o There are reports now that this number has almost doubled.
- The Department has improved the targeting of funding for repairing school buildings, but funding does not fully follow need.
- 270,000 estimated number of free school places that the Department for Education will fund between 2016 and 2021
 - o The biggest risk to delivering buildings for new free schools is the availability of suitable sites.
- 2017 report DfE did not know how the condition of the school estate was changing over time
- The Department has improved the targeting of funding for repairing school buildings, but funding does not fully follow need.
- Recommendations for DfE
 - o Should improve its understanding of the cost of capital projects run by local authorities
 - o Should evaluate the quality of the buildings provided through its main capital programme
 - o Improve its understanding of the condition of the school estate and consider how to get more value out of the next property data survey
 - o Should work more closely with local authorities to understand the needs in the local area
 - o Should make a system – that sets out clear responsibilities and accountability – providing incentives – support to strengthen management of land and buildings – for local authorities and ATs
 - o In assessing applications for new free schools, the Department should explicitly assess whether the value gained from increasing choice and competition