

## **Cabinet – 24 June 2009**

### **Appointment of Technical Advisor for Building Schools for the Future**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration

**Service:** Regeneration

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary of report**

The report summaries the role of Technical Advisor in the BSF programme, and seeks the approval of the Cabinet to delegate authority to the Executive or Assistant Directors of Regeneration, and to accept tenders and appoint consultants to carry out the role of Technical Advisor for Building Schools for the future.

#### **2. Recommendations**

That Cabinet approves the delegation of authority to the Executive or Assistant Directors of Regeneration to accept tenders and appoint consultants to carry out the role of Technical Advisor (TA) within the budget identified for the TA within the Transforming Learning programme

#### **3. Background information**

- 3.1 Since the government's announcement of the initiative for Build Schools for the Future (BSF) in Walsall, progressive reports have been presented to Cabinet relating to the Council's Walsall's part in the programme and particularly the intention to progress the phases of the programme known as Wave 6a and potentially Wave 7.
- 3.2 The appointment of this Technical Advisor (TA) is necessary to enable the development of the non-educational elements of this programme. The TA role will include site option appraisal, feasibility, outline designs and development of output specifications for the Local Education Partnership (LEP). The LEP is a procurement vehicle which is set up by the Council to deliver the BSF programme. The role of the TA is being tendered using a readily available EU compliant framework contract provided by Partnership for Schools, (PfS) for the National BSF programme. PfS is a non-departmental body set up by the Government to deliver the BSF programme

#### **4. Resource considerations**

##### **4.1 Financial:**

- 4.1.1 The Transforming Learning programme includes a budget for the role of Technical Advisor.

##### **4.2 Legal:**

- 4.2.1 All procurement and contracting arrangements referred to in this report have included consultation with the Council's in-house legal team however due to their resource limitations, external legal advisors appointed to the Transforming Learning programme have provided the final advice.

##### **4.3 Staffing:**

- 4.3.1 There are no direct implications to Council staffing issues arising as a result of this report.

#### **5. Citizen impact**

All schemes will contribute to an improved learning environment for Walsall pupils, their families and the wider community.

#### **6. Community safety**

There are no direct implications to Community safety issues arising as a result of this report.

#### **7. Environmental impact**

The Technical advisors will be required to ensure that all new build schools will achieve Building Research Establishment Energy & Environmental Measurement (BREEAM) standard of Excellent, and Refurbished Building BREEAM of Very Good

#### **8. Performance and risk management issues**

##### **8.1 Risk:**

- 8.1.1 The BSF development programme is complex and there are numerous risks. These risks are being managed through the Transforming Learning programme.

## 8.2 Performance management:

- 8.2.1 The Transforming Learning programme has a clearly defined governance and project management structure. The day to day management and performance of the Technical Advisors will be the responsibility of Property Services

## 9. Equality implications

The proposed schemes will result in improved learning environments for pupils and families in Walsall schools.

## 10. Consultation

The procurement of the Technical Advisor has required consultation with the Director of Transforming Learning and Legal Services.

## Background papers

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15 June 2009



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Portfolio holder Regeneration

15 June 2009