

BRIEFING NOTE


TO: Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
DATE: 6 January 2010

RE: Building Schools for the Future - Update

Purpose

To inform Members of progress to date with the development and delivery aspects of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Headline Programme for Reference:

Activity	Proposed Dates	
Remit Meeting (with Partnerships for Schools)	17 November 2009	
Strategy for Change 1 (what we want to achieve)	January 2010	
Strategy for Change 2 (how we are going to deliver it)	May 2010	
Outline Business Case	November 2010	
Prepare to procure partner	December 2010	
Financial Close & Award of Contract	May 2012	
Construction Phase (commences with Sample Schemes)	Mid 2012	
Construction Phase – non Sample Schemes	Early to mid 2013	
Occupation of schools commences	2013/14 onwards	

Progress Update:

- Remit Meeting - Walsall was successful in achieving Remit for the programme for Walsall on 17th November. This was a high level meeting the Partnerships for Schools (PfS), Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC) which formally included in the BSF programme having travelled through project inception stage in good shape.
- Strategy for Change 1 – a small number of amendments are being made to this following receipt of our Remit letter following our meeting with PfS and others. This due for final completion in January 2010.
- Strategy for Change 2 - Work continues to bring together the next stage of documentation required for BSF which is the Strategy for Change – Part 2. This incorporates more detailed work around meeting educational challenges and key objectives and estates strategy.

- Outline Business Case – There is an expectation that there is a greater overlap between stages to ensure that progress is maintained overall. We expect to be commencing the production of our Outline Business Case (OBC) in the first quarter of next year to help safeguard delivery in November 2010.
- Design Workshops with Schools: following the appointment of the Client Design Adviser, inspirational workshops were held with the six schools in Wave 6a as part of the development in turning the Schools' vision into reality. The Client Design Adviser, Technical Adviser and the Transforming Learning Advisers will be working hard with the Schools in the new year to finish their School Strategy for Change incorporating their education vision and produce control site options for inclusion in the SfC2.
- Sample Schemes: work will also commence on developing the Sample Schemes that will form a significant part of evaluating bidders by testing their approach to new build (PFI) and refurbishment (Design and Build) projects. Following further analysis and site visits the two provisional Sample Schemes previously identified have been swapped for two schemes that better demonstrate new build and design and build scope in a competitive bidding environment – ie one that truly represents the desire scope of the Sample Scheme being tested and one that has minimal risk or substantially reduced risk in development and delivery.
- Scope of the Local Education Partnership: in the new year, work must start in earnest to scope the content of the LEP so that the clear direction of travel can be shown in the SfC, be soft market tested, consulted on and be developed further in the OBC. This will involve key discussions with GOWM who are helping us look at global aspects of developing a LEP to delivery other capital projects but also services such as the ICT, Facilities Management and other services that will support the Schools.
- Generating Market Interest: in the new years, work will commence in earnest on generating market interest around our BSF programme. This helps the market better understand what kind of consortium they are expected to assemble for Walsall but also to get us embedded in their bidder strategy for a year or so time. This will involve number of visits and discussions with potential bidders to warm them up and raising our profile at key events. Planning has already been commenced by the PfS Project Director our Project Director, Alison Butcher.

Recommendations

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make progress with the Building Schools for the Future project be noted.

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