

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel

DATE: 30 July 2009

RE: Building Schools for the Future – Transforming Learning in Walsall

Purpose

To update Members on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Building Schools for the Future progress update

- Remit Meeting – we are now planning for a remit meeting date in September. Remit is the formal entry into the BSF programme. Diaries are currently in the process of being finalised and attendees confirmed.
- Partnership for Schools (PfS) visits to Wave 6a schools – Brian Williams and Rob Brophy from PfS visited the Wave 6a Schools in May and were very pleased with progress that had been made in understanding the BSF process and the work required around the schools' vision for transformation which will be set out in the School Strategy for Change. The schools were pleased with the support from the Council's BSF team and from the National College for School Leadership.
- Strategy for Change Part 1 – this was completed earlier this year and provides an introduction to 'what' the Transforming Learning in Walsall strategy is. Our document is now with colleagues from PfS for review. Any matters which need to be addressed will be set out in our Remit letter.
- Strategy for Change Part 2 (SfC2) – this document contains 'how' the transforming learning strategy will be delivered. An initial meeting was held on 17 June to launch the process for writing and developing the SfC2. Members, Headteachers and other key partners will be actively engaged in the development of this document before it is presented to Cabinet in early 2010.
- Client Design Advisers/Technical Advisers – appointments to these key roles are imminent. These advisers will play a key part in the development of the education vision into annotated design drawings for each of the six schools in Wave 6a.
- Sports and Leisure, Ben Percival, Sport and Recreation Manager has now become a member of the Transforming Learning Programme Team representing the PE and sports Stakeholder Group to ensure that the Sports and Leisure strategy is fully aligned with the wider programme.
- PCP & BSF – the Department of Children, Schools and Families has issued a press release on 16 June regarding the transfer of management and delivery of all school

building and refurbishment programmes to PfS included in this will be the Primary Capital Programme (PCP). Therefore it is PfS's understanding that the processes for both BSF and PCP should be aligned and joined up. Walsall had already decided that these two major investment programmes should be aligned within the wider overarching Transforming Learning in Walsall banner to ensure coherence and economies of scale.

- Consultation events – took place at Alumwell, Joseph Leckie, Pool Hayes, Shire Oak and Streetly schools in May 2009. These were well attended and very well received by staff, children, parents, and community representatives. The outputs from these events are currently being collated and will be published shortly for review and these outputs will be feed into the Schools Strategy for Change and SfC2. A similar stakeholder event is planned for Frank F Harrison in September.
- Stakeholder Group – a more focussed BSF stakeholder group has been established with inclusive membership as defined by PfS guidance. This will allow the 3is group to concentrate on the wider innovation in education agenda feeding into the education workstream.

Recommendations (if required)

Scrutiny Panel to note the progress made on the Building Schools for the Future project.

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