

## **BSF AND PRIMARY CAPITAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MEETING, 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009

Present – Councillors Adia (Chairman), P. Allen (as deputy for Councillor Mrs. Brierley), Ashcroft, J. Byrne, Darvesh, Hayes, Morris, Murray, Mrs. Swarbrick, Wild and White (as deputy for Councillor Mrs Thomas).

### Also in Attendance

Ms. M. Asquith	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr. D. Grogan	-	Assistant Director, Building Schools for the Future
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Assistant Director Performance, Planning and Resources
Mr. D. Smith	-	Policy Accountant
Mr. A. Jennings	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Brierley, Rushton, Mrs Thomas and J. Walsh.

Councillor Adia in the Chair.

## **16. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record, subject to the name of Councillor Darvesh being removed from the list of members declaring interests in Minutes 12, 14 and 15.

Further to Minute 12 Leisure Services Review a report on the outcome would be submitted to a future meeting of the PDG.

## **17. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

The Assistant Director Building Schools for the Future undertook a presentation that outlined the Balfour Beatty Education (BBE) community benefits offer and detailed how the apprenticeship programme would be delivered.

The core programme had six thematic areas as follows:-

- Maximising local labour use;
- Creating new apprenticeships;
- Upskilling the existing workforce;

- Developing the future workforce;
- Supporting key target groups; and
- Support for companies.

The programme also had clear contractual performance indicators and reflected local economic priorities.

With respect to the employment of local residents the following points were highlighted:-

- 20% local labour use in Year 1;
- Rising to 30% by end of sample schemes;
- Increasing to 50% at end of construction phase; and
- Growing to 90% during the operational phase (ICT and FM).

With respect to the above it was noted that there would be a 100% job interview guarantee for eligible residents which was a contractual commitment covering all the supply chain involved. Unsuccessful applicants would also be advised of other opportunities. Discussions were ongoing with local companies to ensure integration into the BBE supply chain.

The presentation also explained the sector specific opportunities particularly around ICT and facilities management.

One of the main areas of the scheme was the establishment of the Balfour Beatty apprenticeship company which included a range of options as follows:-

- Construction crafts;
- FM apprenticeships;
- ICT apprenticeships;
- Technical trainees;
- Higher Skill 'Internships';
- A Jobs and Skills Pledge for each apprentice;
- Access to relevant NVQ, Key Skills, Technical qualifications;
- Accreditation beyond standard Level 2 provision; and
- Continuous on-the-job training with a range of BSF employers.

The aim of the scheme was a continuity of employment for each apprentice.

Members were informed that there were three routes into apprenticeship placements as follows:-

1. Existing apprenticeships within the supply chain;
2. Apprenticeships created through the BSF programme e.g. BBES, Northgate; and

### 3. Balfour Beatty Apprenticeship Company.

The presentation explained the company structure and the funding model which was based on a successful Australian model specifically targeting SME's in sectors relevant to BSF delivery.

The benefits to local employers were highlighted as follows:-

BBAC would strengthen supply chain employers offering:

- a) Free Workforce Skills Assessments / Training Needs Analysis;
- b) Capacity building on issues such as Health & Safety;
- c) Individual Learning Plans for each apprentice; and
- d) The ATA model reduced recruitment/employment risks for participating small/medium enterprises (SMEs) by taking on the employer role thus:
  - raising completion rates; and
  - reducing human resources and administrative burden on SMEs.

All BSF supply chain companies would be contractually obliged to 'buy' apprenticeship weeks from BBAC if they were unable to provide full time apprenticeship placements.

The apprenticeship milestones were as follows:-

Number of additional apprenticeship weeks created by BSF during construction phase – 19,350;

Number of apprenticeships created through FM services – 2,250;

Number of apprenticeships created through ICT managed service – 4,050.

Total – 25,650 person weeks

The scheme would also recognise that targeted support was needed for groups such as NEETS and local care leavers.

The presentation concluded with the following:-

- BBAC legal structure in place by December 2009;
- Full apprenticeship programme launch: early 2010;
- Construction programme to begin April 2010; and
- Discussion ongoing with local providers through 14-19 Partnership and Development and Regeneration Department.

The PDG noted the presentation.

## **18. OUTCOMES OF THE PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME CONSULTATION**

Councillors Adia, Ashcroft, Hayes, Morris, Murray, Mrs. Swarbrick, and Wild declared a personal interest in this item as Governors at various schools in the Borough.

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report that considered the responses to the recent Primary Capital Programme consultation exercise.

Members were reminded that consultation on increasing the admission number of 19 primary schools through Bolton's Primary Capital Programme concluded on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009.

Comments were invited from any interested party on any or all of the proposals, as well as on the overall programme, its aims and priorities and information on the comments received and a summary of the points raised were summarised in the report.

The Executive Member for Children's Services would be requested to decide whether each specific proposal was to be implemented and several of the school proposals required Statutory Notices if they were to proceed.

Members were asked for their views on the publication of Statutory Notices in each case where required and where proposals were to be implemented.

In considering the responses members were informed that some of the schools had already admitted additional pupils to their Reception classes in 2008 and/or 2009. The schools were listed in the report with a note of whether they exceeded their published admission number (PAN) at the Local Authority's request.

Members noted that following concerns raised by local residents at a public meeting at Harwood Meadows and directly with the Headteacher and Governors of the school, the Governing Body had withdrawn their support for the expansion of the scheme.

It was explained that following the closing date for applications for primary places for September 2010, there were 149 applications for 120 places in primary schools in the Harwood area. All of the Harwood primary schools were oversubscribed and currently, 40 first preferences had been expressed for Harwood Meadows Primary School. It was highlighted that a decision not to go ahead with the proposed expansion of Harwood Meadows would result in some applicants for Harwood primary schools being unsuccessful and being offered other schools in the North East of Bolton.

Members discussed the above and were of the view that Harwood's PAN should remain at 45 along with Ladybridge's and that the LEA reps on Harwood's

Governing Body be informed of members views.

The PDG agreed the report for submission to the Executive Member Children's Services and that the Executive Member be recommended to agree to the PANs at Harwood Meadows and Ladybridge being increased to 45.

(The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 5.00pm)