

Report to: Executive Members for Children's Services

Date: 1st April 2008

Report of: Director of Children's Services and
Director of Corporate Resources

Report No:

Contact Officer: Des Grogan, Assistant Director of
Legal and Democratic Services

Tele No: 01204/33

Report Title: **Building Schools for the Future and Development of Joint Local
Education Partnership (LEP) with Blackburn with Darwen**

Non Confidential: (**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to seek the Executive Member's approval to:

- (a) the submission of a document to the Department of Children, School and Families (DCSF) to prove the Council's readiness to deliver the BSF Programme;
- (b) a process for the appointment of advisors to support the creation of the Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen.

Recommendations: The Executive member is recommended to:-

1. Agree that the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources be delegated authority to ensure that the Council's Readiness to Deliver document is submitted to Partnership for Schools by 11th April, 2008.
2. Approve the process for the appointment of advisors to support the creation of the Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen and authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the legal formalities.
3. note the progress on the creation of the academies at the Withins and Hayward.

Decision:

Background Doc(s): Building Schools for the Future

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

(on its own page

The Executive have previously agreed that the Council should seek to accelerate its position from wave 7-9 of the Building School for the Future (BSF0 Programme to an earlier wave and authorise officers to take the necessary steps to do so. The Executive have agreed to the creation of a Joint Local Education Partnership with Blackburn with Darwen.

The purpose of this report is to seek the Executive Member's approval to:

- (a) the submission of a document to the Department of Children, School and Families (DCSF) to prove the Council's readiness to deliver the BSF Programme;
- (b) a process for the appointment of advisors to support the creation of the Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen.

with background docs)

Background Information

BSF is a £45 billion national programme to transform education in the country over the next 10 – 15 years. The programme is being delivered in 11 waves. Bolton is currently in wave 7 – 9 meaning that the earliest we could start to prepare to deliver is 2011. However, Bolton has been encouraged to prepare evidence that it could deliver the BSF process in an earlier wave and work has been ongoing to achieve that aim in earnest since Autumn 2007.

If the Council is successful up to between £250 - £300 million could be available to undertake major regeneration or re-building of all the authority's secondary schools. This is in addition to the capital that will be expended as part of the delivery of two academies at the Withins and Hayward at a combined estimated value of up to £45 million, when the primary element of the Withins is included.

In order to reduce procurement and bidding costs the government are also strongly encouraging BSF authorities to create Local Education Partnerships with the private sector to deliver the programme locally. More recently the Government has encouraged one or more BSF authorities to create Joint LEPs of two or more authorities to further reduce costs and provide a more attractive capital package to potential developers.

As indicated above, the Executive has also agreed to the creation of academies at the Withins and Hayward with effect from September, 2008 and Navigant Consulting have been appointed to advise the Council on their creation and to project manage and procure the new school buildings.

Building Schools for the Future

One of the major planks in achieving BSF status is the acceptance by Government of the Council's Strategy for Change (Part 1) Document, which describe the Council's vision as to how it will transform education and learning in Bolton as part of the programme. It was originally anticipated that this document would need to be submitted by June 2008 for approval. Accordingly, a number of consultation sessions have been held with headteachers to shape this document and a robust working draft has been prepared. The draft which will need to be approved by the Council via the Executive will be subjected to consultation with all stakeholders over the next few weeks.

The Executive Member will see from the enclosed letter from the DCSF delivery agents Partnership for Schools (PFS) that the strategy for change does not now have to be submitted until August/September 2008.

The letter which has been issued to all wave 7 — 9 authorities inviting them to bid for acceleration in the process does convey a number of other criteria that the Council will have to demonstrate they can achieve.

In particular, the Council will have to submit a Readiness to Deliver Document by 11th April, 2008 showing that we meet the following requirements:-

- Commitment to the BSF model, the LEP, the standard procurement route and individual schools' commitment in principle to an ICT Managed Service;
- Agreement with the office of the Schools Commissioner on plans to address diversity, choice and access;
- A clear and cohesive strategy for Educational Transformation within the geographical area identified;
- School organisation and pupil place planning to be well advanced;
- Clear plans for consultation in place, including a timeline for completion including statutory school organisation consultations prior to submission of the OBC;
- Project Director, BSF Team and advisers able to be in place for June 2008, prior to the start of the project; and
- A clear commitment in writing from the Chief Executive to support revenue funding for the delivery of the project at a rate at least equivalent to 3% of the estimated project value.

The Council is confident it can demonstrate that it meets all of the above criteria and has commissioned Navigant to prepare the necessary documentation. The cost of this will be in the order of £10,000.

Successful authorities will be notified in June 2008.

Members should also be aware that the Councils' strategy for change in support of the primary Capital programme still has to be submitted to the DCSF by June, 2008 and a draft of this will shortly be available for consultation and thereafter approval..

Creation of Joint LEP

The Council's decision to enter into a Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen will be seen as a major step in proving its readiness to deliver. Decisions have been reached with Blackburn with Darwen that the cost of developing the Joint LEP will be shared on a 50/50 basis. The next step will be the signing of the agreement between the two authorities in April 2008 and the creation of a Joint Project Team.

The 4Ps who are an agency that provides advice and support to Governmental bodies delivery PFI and other major capital programmes have undertaken an audit of the skill available in Blackburn with Darwen to deliver the BSF project and made recommendations as to the shape of the Project Team. The 4Ps will now undertake a similar audit in Bolton and bring forward recommendations as to the creation of joint Project Team. A report on this will be brought to members in due course.

Blackburn with Darwen had already appointed legal, ICT, financial and technical advisers to the project, as they are required to do, to meet the BSF criteria.

The creation of the Joint LEP means the value of the overall programme could rise from Blackburn's share of £130 million to nearly £400 million when Bolton is included. PSF has advised that rather than seek to undertake a fresh procurement process the two authorities should seek to re-assure themselves that the advisers can deliver against the bigger programme. Subject to approval by the Executive member the existing advisers will be interviewed by the relevant officers with a view to being appointed for the joint LEP. If the advisers cannot convince the panel about their ability to deliver then those specific roles will have to be re-tendered.

It has also been agreed jointly that where appropriate, elements of the respective PC Programmes and other local authority building projects will be included within the remit of the Joint LEP.

Academies

The government have also approved the Expressions of Interest to enable the proposed to academies at the Withins and Hayward to be created. E. C. Harris have been appointed to act as the sponsor's Overall Project Managers (OPM) and the Council and its advisers are now beginning to work with the OPM to ensure the academy goes live September 2008 as planned.

The OPM in respect of the Hayward Academy will be appointed in the near future.

The Council will technically have to go through a formal school's closure programme to close the existing institutions and re-open them as academies and the requisite reports will be submitted to members in April, 2008.

Recommendations

The Executive member is recommended to:-

1. Agree that the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources be delegated authority to ensure that the Council's Readiness to Deliver document is submitted to

Partnership for Schools by 11th April, 2008.

2. Approve the process for the appointment of advisers to support the creation of the Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen and authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the legal formalities.
3. Note the progress on the creation of the academies at the Withins and Hayward.

Dear Sir / Madam

25 February 2008

Building Schools for the Future – An early start for wave 7 to 9 projects that are ready to deliver

The experience of managing BSF shows that to ensure timely delivery, authorities must be well prepared when they enter the programme. The package of measures we introduced at the end of 2006 has resulted in a significant reduction of up to 6 months in the delivery timescales of BSF for the most recent waves. This means that pupils and teachers will benefit earlier from the massive investment in the programme.

We wish to ensure the continuity of BSF projects entering the programme while we consult on the management of Waves 7 onwards. This will begin in due course. In the meantime, we are proposing that a limited number of those authorities in Wave 7 to 9 who can demonstrate that they are ready be invited to enter the programme now.

As you are prioritised in Waves 7 to 9, we are writing to invite you to apply. In order to be considered for entry into this interim wave, authorities must be able to demonstrate that they will be in a position to make progress immediately with their BSF project when they enter the programme in summer 2008. We would therefore not expect authorities to put themselves forward unless they meet all of the following requirements:

- commitment to the BSF model, the LEP, standard procurement route and individual schools' commitment in principle to an ICT Managed Service;
- agreement with the Office of the Schools Commissioner on plans to address diversity, choice and access;
- a clear and cohesive strategy for Educational Transformation within the geographical area identified;
- school organisation and pupil place planning to be well advanced;
- clear plans for consultation in place, including a timeline for completion, including statutory school organisation consultations prior to submission of the OBC;
- Project Director, BSF Team and Advisers able to be in place for June 2008, prior to the start of the project; and
- a clear commitment in writing from the Chief Executive to support revenue funding for the delivery of the project at a rate at least equivalent to 3% of the estimated project value.

If your authority meets all of these requirements and would like to be considered for a summer 2008 start, you are invited to make a Readiness to Deliver application, using the same criteria as set out in the guidance for Waves 4-6, which can be accessed online at www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/documents/ReadinesstoDeliver140606_000.pdf. Please do not make an application unless you can provide evidence that your authority meets all the criteria set out above.

Not all applications will be successful even where they meet all these criteria as there are only a small number of places available. Whilst there are no precise limits to the size of projects considered, it is likely that Ministers may give preference to smaller projects of around £100 million capital value.

Authorities that do not apply, or who are not prioritised for this interim wave, will be fully eligible for consideration for prioritisation in Waves 7 onwards, following the consultation.

We expect remit meetings for authorities who are successful to be held in June/July 2008, with Strategy for Change Part 1 submitted in August/September.

Next Steps

If you would like your authority to be considered for a summer 2008 start, please email Anthony Walker, Strategic Director, (Anthony.walker@partnershipsforschools.org.uk) to register an interest by 4 March. You will then be required to submit an electronic Readiness to Deliver to Anthony by 11 April. We welcome submissions in advance of this date.

The anticipated timetable for local authorities who enter this interim wave is set out below.

LAs to register an expression of interest in early start	4 March 2008
Interested LAs to submit electronic version of their Readiness to Deliver submission	11 April 2008
The Department announces the interim wave projects	June 2008
Remit meetings for interim wave projects to take place	June-July 2008
Submission of SfC1 for interim wave projects	August/September 2008 (8 weeks following Remit)
Submission of SfC2 for interim wave projects	December/January 2009 (28 weeks following Remit)
Submission of OBC for interim wave projects	June/July 2009 (50 weeks following Remit)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Anthony Walker at the email address above.

Copies of this letter will be sent to Government Offices, Learning and Skills Councils and Dioceses.

Yours sincerely



Sally Brooks
Head of Schools Capital
DCSF



Tim Byles
Chief Executive
PFS