

BSF AND PRIMARY CAPITAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 12TH OCTOBER, 2009

Present – Councillors Adia (Chairman), Mrs Thomas (Vice-Chairman), Darvesh, Hayes, Kay (as deputy for Councillor Morris), Murray, Rushton, Mrs. Swarbrick, J. Walsh and Wild.

Also in Attendance

Ms. M. Asquith	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr. D. Grogan	-	Assistant Director, Building Schools for the Future
Mr S. Fazal	-	Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion
Mr J. Gorton	-	Asset Development Manager
Mrs K. Smith	-	Principal Performance and Improvement Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ashcroft, Morris and Mrs Brierley.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 28th July, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

12. LEISURE SERVICES REVIEW

Councillors Adia, Mrs Thomas, Darvesh, Hayes, Kay, Murray, Rushton, Mrs. Swarbrick, J. Walsh and Wild declared a personal interest in this item as Governors at various schools in the Borough.

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which detailed the review of leisure facilities in Bolton.

By way of background information the report advised that the Council currently had an interest in the operation of fourteen sports/leisure centres in the Borough with twelve sites operating through a contract with Bolton Community Leisure Trust, two sites under the control of Adult Services and a further two Sites, which offered a limited amount of sporting provision, operated through Children's Services

The report advised that there were a number of initiatives running which could have a significant impact on current arrangements and provide opportunities for some significant facility enhancement:

- Academies – Hayward, Withins, Kearsley;
- BSF – Westhoughton, Sharples, Little Lever (Phase One), Longbridge, Harper Green (Phase Two), Turton (Phase Three);
- Closure of Excel; and
- New Town Centre Pool

The report advised that the Leisure Facilities Review should cover the following areas: -

- To fully investigate the feasibility of linking the replacement of leisure facilities into the BSF programme, LIFT programme, and to major redevelopment plans, proposals and initiatives in the Borough;
- To deliver a strategy for the Council's leisure facilities including or excluding BSF and LIFT options, including proposals for facility rationalisation;
- To identify affordable routes and timescales to deliver improvements to facilities, preferably balancing ecologically proven architectural innovation and best practice in school layout and design – thus enabling economically viable (and thus affordable to local people) community access. Resultant facilities should be capable of inspiring increased participation from amongst the local community as well as visitors to the area;
- To consider the potential for inclusion of sports spectating within specific facilities as a source of additional revenues and promotion of sport and physical activity in the area; and
- To underpin recommendations with broad-ranging stakeholder consultation.

The report advised that the Leisure Review would deliver an evidenced based, detailed strategic review of Council owned sport and leisure facilities. Consultants were appointed by quotation at the beginning of September and the final report was anticipated by early November, 2009.

During the course of the ensuing discussion members made the following comment:-

- The need for the review to be all encompassing, ensuring that as many buildings as possible were fully utilised.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

13. BASIC NEED FUNDING UPDATE

Ms M. Asquith, Director of Children's Services, submitted a report which informed members of the progress of the bid submitted in August, 2009 for the Basic Need Safety funding.

By way of background information, the report advised that the Government had announced in July, 2009 that an additional £200 million was to be made available to Local Authorities struggling to accommodate existing primary school pupil numbers.

The report stated that, although the information on this exceptional funding highlighted the need to fund Reception places the proforma was the same as the previous rounds of Basic Need Safety funding and therefore, because information was required on all primary age groups the specific problem with Reception numbers was masked by spare pupil places in Key Stage 2

The report advised that despite the proforma producing a low figure for additional places required, the DCSF indicated that Local Authorities could submit additional information to support the bid which Bolton duly did.

Bolton submitted all the additional data required by the DCSF which made a stronger case for funding for additional places particularly in Key Stage one. However, Bolton had since received a response from the DCSF stating that the intention was not to allocate on this basis.

The report advised that there was no more information on how the funding would be allocated and whether Bolton was likely to receive any other funding. Members were advised that they would be notified as soon as an announcement was made.

During the course of the ensuing discussion members made the following comments:-

- Whether the additional places needed could be funded without this funding; and
- The accuracy of the PAN model used in Bolton.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

14. PCP CONSULTATION

Councillors Adia, Mrs Thomas, Darvesh, Hayes, Kay, Murray, Rushton, Mrs. Swarbrick, J. Walsh 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 which provided information on the public consultation in relation to the Primary Capital Programme.

By way of background information the report advised that the DCSF required all authorities to consult on their Primary Capital Programme. Consultation on the first phase of Bolton's Primary Capital Programme began on 14th September, 2009. The consultation contained specific proposals relating to increases in the published admission numbers at primary schools across the Borough. The proposals also indicated where expansion of school buildings was required but do not give details of proposed building schemes or sites. These would be the subject of further consultation and planning processes.

The consultation document was attached to the report and details were given of how the consultation would be publicised.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

15. PCP PROJECT UPDATE

Councillors Adia, Mrs Thomas, Darvesh, Hayes, Kay, Murray, Rushton, Mrs. Swarbrick, J. Walsh 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 which informed members of the progress of school projects which had taken place in Summer, 2009 as part of the Primary Capital Programme.

By way of background information the report advised that a number of projects were approved and commissioned early this year to extend or reconfigure space to allow identified schools to accommodate additional pupils from September, 2009. Timescales for the delivery of a number of these projects was challenging.

The report advised that the tight timescales and poor summer weather meant that several projects were being finished over the weekend before the start of the Autumn Term. With the realisation that timescales were tight, schools were asked to work up contingency plans to manage a situation in which work would not be complete by the start of term. However, all schemes had been successfully delivered to enable all schools to open as planned at the start of term.

The report stated that there were still some schools where further planned work would continue over coming months. Where this was the case it was part of a planned programme and wherever contractors remained on site to finish off after handover, health and safety was a priority and children were separated

from areas of work.

The position for each School concerned was as follows:-

- Harwood Meadow (phase 1): work to foundation unit and staffroom complete;
- Haslam Park (pahse 1) : foundation unit and DDA work complete;
- Leverhulme: work to foundation unit complete;
- Markland Hill: two classrooms ready for opening on and all works on schedule;
- St Matthew's Bolton: work to foundation unit complete
- Sacred Heart: work to prepare the former Westhoughton Community Primary to receive two classes from Sacred Heart is complete;
- Eatock: new classroom and ICT suite complete;
- The Gates (Phase 1): Two new classrooms in use, two to be finished by October as scheduled;
- St Columba's (Phase 1): Work to foundation unit complete;
- St Thomas of Canterbury (Phase 1): Work to Foundation Unit complete; and
- Bishop Bridgeman (Phase 2 of 3): approximately three weeks behind schedule. New classrooms to be ready for 25th September, possibly later.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 5.30pm)