

Bolton Council

Report to: The Executive

Date: 27th April 2009

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Report No:

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Report Title: **Building Schools for the Future: Readiness to Deliver**

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**
(delete as approp)

(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 present the Council's Building Schools for the Future Readiness to Deliver document to the Executive for approval.

Recommendations:

The Executive is recommended to approve the Council's BSF Readiness to Deliver document for submission to Partnership for Schools and delegate the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Children's Services to amend and make changes as necessary prior to submission on 8th May 2009.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

This report is based on published accounts

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

*(on its own page
with background docs)*

Background Information

Summary

The council is one of some thirty authorities who have been admitted to the next round of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. BSF is a national programme to rebuild or refurbish every Secondary School in the Country so as to provide a transformed learning culture.

Previously the Government had intended to admit local authorities into the programme in 15 waves. Bolton had been designated as being in wave 7-9 but had submitted an unsuccessful bid in April 2008 to be entered into wave 6a. As previously reported the Government subsequently changed the process for entry into the programme to enable as many authorities as possible to gain from the investment programme. Authorities in waves 7-15 were invited to submit an Expression of Interest to develop the school estates via an initial project not to exceed £80m with follow on projects not to exceed £100m.

Partnership for Schools (PfS) the government delivery agent for the programme have indicated that 30 plus authorities will now be admitted to the programme as they prove they are ready to deliver, Bolton is one of these authorities. All of these authorities have been asked to consider whether they do in fact feel they are able to deliver this complex program.

The Council's Expression of Interest suggested that we could deliver the programme in Bolton in three projects viz:-

Project 1

Westhoughton High School (with West PRU)	(New Build PFI)
Bolton Muslim Girls School	(New Build D&B)
Smithills	(Remodel)
Little Lever	(Refurbishment)
Sharples (with North PRU)	(New Build PFI)
Ladybridge	(Refurbish with Rumworth)

Total FAM = £82.9m

Project 2

Rumworth Special	(Refurbish with Ladybridge)
St Joseph's RC	(New Build PFI)
Harper Green (South PRU)	(New Build PFI)
Thornleigh Salesian	(Refurbishment/Remodel)
Rivington & Blackrod	(Refurbishment/Remodel)

Total FAM = £84.5m

Project 3

Mount St Josephs	(Refurbish)
St James	(Refurbish)
Turton	(Refurbish Remodel)
Canon Slade	(Refurbish/Remodel)
Lever Park Special	(Refurbish)

FAM = £80.043m

TBD

Starting Point Premier Training and Young Mums Unit: £3.2m

Bolton has been entered into the programme on the basis of its first project and we will be expected to deliver those projects. There could be scope to amend Project 2 and 3 and we also have to determine the position of the PRUs, within the overall programme.

Councils who believe they are ready to deliver have been asked to submit a Readiness to Deliver (RtD) Document which covers the following areas:

Context and vision
OSC Requirements
Learning and Curriculum
Integrated Services
Inclusion and SEN
Leadership and Change Management
KPIs

The Council's draft Rtd is appended to this report. The guidance for RtD was considered by the School's Capital PDG on 7th April 2009 and the PDGs suggestions will be reported at the meeting.

The RtD has to be submitted to PfS by 8th May 2009 and thereafter a shortlist of authorities will be invited to attend an Assessment Panel Meeting in July 2009. Those authorities who are considered ready will then be entered into the programme. Those authorities not considered ready will have to re-submit an RtD document later in the year to prove they have addressed their shortcomings. This process will be repeated until all the authorities have been formerly released into the programme.

Conclusion

Bolton would appear to have the necessary vision and resources in place to suggest it should be a strong candidate for early release into the programme. In particular the work undertaken to procure the joint Local Education Partnership with Blackburn and Darwen should leave the Council relatively well placed.

Recommendations:

The Executive is recommended to approve the draft Readiness to Deliver Document for submission to Partnership for Schools, with delegation to the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Children's Services to amend and add to, as necessary, before submission date on 8th May 2009.