

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

MEETING, 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2009

Present – Councillors Mrs Thomas (Vice-Chairman), Ashcroft, Mrs Brierley, J. Byrne, Darvesh, Hayes, 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 D. Kilgallon	-	Lead Officer for Transformation, Building Schools for the Future
Miss K. Treadwell	-	Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Adia.

## **8. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **9. SCHOOL DESIGN**

Mr D. Kilgallon, Lead Officer for Transformation, gave a presentation which showed the potential types of school designs that could be used to facilitate modern learning in schools in the Borough.

By way of background information, the presentation advised that young people leaving education faced increasing challenges as the demand for higher skills in Science, Mathematics and Technology continued to rise. Young people would be expected to train and retrain and would need to be adaptable to meet the demands of a changing world. Therefore, the education system would have to meet these challenges to prepare every child for the workplace. In the past learning took place in Schools but in the future it was anticipated that there would be studio schools, learning villages and open campuses, cultural centres, business homes, virtual centres and others.

The presentation stated Building Schools for the Future Programme was about building environments in which learning would occur. These modern design ideas for learning in Bolton would be formed through working with Schools and asking for young people's involvement.

The presentation went on to display a number of different types of furniture currently used in schools to illustrate how furniture could be used to enhance modern learning approaches which were in tune with young people's development needs.

The presentation stated that these new schools would need to be accessible to all the community and would be organised in 'suites' of space. Each suite would have a critical mass, a range of room sizes, ancillary spaces and where possible, an outdoor learning environment. From the inside schools would need to be designed for adaptability, expandability, flexibility and transparency in order to support interaction but with a secure design.

The presentation went on to show potential models for schools and an 'organogram' of Witton Park High School.

Mr Kilgallon advised that the Council's guidelines for such School designs would be outlined in the Strategy for Change document in the Autumn which this Policy Development Group would be consulted on.

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

- whilst there was a need for flexible classroom space this should not compromise health and safety requirements;
- the importance of helping Schools through this process
- the importance of involving and consulting with the local community during the process; and
- the need to learn lessons from previous developments across the country.

It was agreed that the presentation be noted.

## **10. ACADEMIES AND BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE**

Mr D. Grogan, Assistant Director, Building Schools for the Future, gave a verbal update on the progress with the formal entry into the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) and the development of existing and proposed Academies in the Borough.

Mr Grogan advised that Bolton was one of six Local Authorities entered into Wave 7 of BSF programme. During the Autumn of 2009 it was expected that Bolton would develop a Strategy for Change and a Schools Strategy for Change with a Business Plan expected later in the process. There was

currently site survey work ongoing on Phase One schools and, once completed, members would be consulted in this area.

Mr Grogan stated that with regard to the Local Education Partnership (LEP) there were two bidders who both had good potential designs. Once a preferred bidder was in place a shadow LEP would be implemented.

Mr Grogan also updated members relating to the progress of ESSA, St Catherine's and Firwood Academies. In September, 2009 St Catherine Academy would open. There were also two companies who were involved in potential designs for the ESSA Academy building. These bids were due by 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 with the intention that there would be the financial close by November, 2009. It was hoped that work would start on site in 2010.

With regard to George Tomlinson Academy an Expression of Interest would need to be signed off by Government ministers in Autumn, 2009 before a period of statutory consultation could take place.

It was estimated that the following funding would be available for Bolton:-

	£ million
ESSA	17.6
St Catherine's	36.5
George Tomlinson	13.0
BSF 1 <sup>st</sup> Project	82.9
ICT	13.0
Total	163

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

- the certainty of funding if there was a change of government; and
- the possibility of schools that had been part of the BSF programme taking Trust Status.

It was agreed that the update be noted.

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