



Forward Plan Select Committee 3 March 2010

Report from the Director of Children and Families

For Action

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Transforming Learning in Brent (BSF) – Project Initiation Document (PID)

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Council has been engaged with the entry process for BSF for over a year now and on the 30 November 2009 it received the very welcome news that Brent was now successfully on the programme and will be formally starting before 1 April 2010.
- 1.2 BSF is an ambitious and far-reaching long-term change programme. It offers local authorities in England a once in a generation opportunity to transform educational provision and significantly improve educational outcomes and life chances of children, young people and families.
- 1.3 BSF has one primary focus which is to achieve a step change transformation in educational outcomes for children. Although BSF must deliver state of the art buildings and link into regeneration, sports and community strategies it is first and foremost a catalyst for delivering transformational learning.
- 1.4 An important requirement placed on local authorities by Partnership for Schools is the development of a Project Initiation Document which sets out all the important elements of the project including: objectives, resources, governance, reporting requirements, outcomes and project timelines.
- 1.5 BSF funding and the BSF programme only covers secondary schools.

2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 Partnership for Schools, the government agency responsible for delivering BSF, met with the Council on the 18 December 2009. This included a review of our submission document (Readiness to Deliver) and set out any actions we needed to undertake in preparation of the important Remit Meeting which will take place on 2 March 2010.
- 2.2 The Remit meeting is expected to involve Partnership for Schools and the Council's Chief executive and results in a formal agreement being reached between PfS and the Council setting out PfS's expectations regarding outputs and outcomes from our BSF programme. The Council will have to sign up to certain expected outcomes which are influenced by ministerial priorities around attainment, inclusion and community engagement amongst other areas.
- 2.3 Following on from the Remit meeting the council will have to develop its next submission setting out its Strategy for Change. This is expected to be required during the spring of 2010 and once approved would allow the Council to develop its Outline Business case. Appendix A sets out a provisional timetable for Brent's BSF programme.
- 2.4 All secondary schools are currently working on developing their school Strategy for Change documents with support from the Council and from the National College for School Leadership.

3.0 **Brent's First Phase**

- 3.1 BSF is delivered in phases and the Council's agreed first phase is as follows:
- **Alperton:** 100% rebuild with an expansion of 1FE on a single site as an all through school with a 2FE primary school
 - **Cardinal Hinsley:** 100% rebuild with an extra 1FE
 - **Queens Park:** Refurbishment and remodelling with an expansion of 2FE
 - **Copland:** 100% rebuild
- 3.2 Funding of around £80m will be provided by the Government to deliver phase 1. The anticipated cost of phase 1 is currently expected to be around £94m and the Council has a robust strategy in place to fund the £14m gap primarily from asset sales from the first phase schools.
- 3.3 At this stage it is not certain when funding for the next phases will become available.

4.0 **Local Education Partnership (LEP)**

- 4.1 A key requirement of BSF is that the Council will have to form a stand-alone company called a LEP which will be commissioned to undertake all the design

and construction work. The majority share holder of the LEP will be the successful consortium that wins the competitive dialogue process, with the Council and PfS holding a minority of shares. In most cases each council has formed its own LEP but there have been a few successful examples where a number of Councils have formed a joint LEP.

- 4.2 The advantages of a joint LEP include a significant saving in procurement costs estimated at around £1m and a significant saving in delivery time with school projects potentially delivered a year earlier than would be the case with a Brent only LEP.
- 4.3 Officers are currently exploring the feasibility of a joint LEP approach with a number of other Councils.

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