



Executive
11th October 2007

**Report from the Director of
Children and Families**

Wards Affected:
ALL

**John Kelly Technology Colleges –
application for Academy Status**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F-07/08-007

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Governing Bodies of the John Kelly Boys and John Kelly Girls Technology Colleges have asked the Executive for support in their submission of an Expression of Interest to the Department of Children, Schools and Families for the Colleges to become an Academy sponsored by Edutrust an educational charity. The report recommends approval of support.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive is recommended to give in principle support to the development and submission of an Expression of Interest for Academy status, by the Governors of the John Kelly Boys and Girls Technology Colleges, to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
- 2.2 The Expression of interest once developed will be submitted to the Executive for formal approval.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The John Kelly Girls and Boys Technology colleges are Foundation Schools. The Governors of the colleges own the site and premises and employ the staff of the colleges. The colleges are the Council's top priority for replacement and expansion by 150 places each as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which for Brent is scheduled to come on stream between

2011 and 2016. The council is currently seeking to acquire additional land for the colleges to enable the redevelopment and expansion. This was the subject of a separate report to the Executive at the September meeting.

- 3.2 The Governors of the colleges have been in discussion with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) with a view to seeking Academy status. This would enable the colleges to be rebuilt in advance of the BSF programme via direct Government grant funding. The DCSF have confirmed that under a recent change of examination threshold criteria the Kelly colleges would be eligible to apply for Academy status whereas hitherto they were precluded from doing this.
- 3.3 The Governors have approached Edutrust and asked them to become the sponsor of the Academies. Details of Edutrust are given in a prospectus document entitled Edutrust Academies programme copied at Annex 1 to this report.
- 3.4 Edutrust is a Not for Profit organisation, committed to strengthening the quality of public service, the raising of standards and to innovation. It is currently establishing Academies in disadvantaged areas in many parts of the country (Birmingham, Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds etc). Edutrust is committed to adding value to the strong foundation which already exists at the Kellys and to enhance the entitlement of students. Edutrust is committed to working in partnership with Brent Council. The ethos and values of Edutrust are fully in accord with those of the Council and its partnership with schools and are similar to those of the other sponsor ARK which the Executive approved to work for the proposed Academy in Wembley.
- 3.5 The Edutrust ethos and values are clearly set out in its Prospectus, but Edutrust feel it is important to stress the following to the Executive:
- The admissions criteria for the colleges will continue to follow the local arrangements. There will be no selection of students and inclusivity will be at the heart of the Academies' values.
 - An Academy culture will be developed where differences are respected and celebrated. The focus will be on values of tolerance, respect and community cohesion, where members of all races, faiths and cultures learn and socialise together. The Kellys Academies will not be faith schools.
 - There is a recognition of the very high standards achieved by the present schools and there is a commitment to build on and extend these. The Kellys Academies will be developed as distinctive Edutrust 'Centres of Excellence', enabling students to achieve the highest levels of personal excellence in all aspects of their school life.
 - There will be a seamless transition for students and staff between the current provision and Academy status. The transfer of staff to the Academies will be managed in accordance with TUPE legislation and there will be no move from staff's current terms and conditions. All staff

have already been addressed by their respective Principals and the National Union of Teachers have also had the opportunity to address staff of both schools.

- A commitment to widespread consultation and involvement of stakeholders at all levels in shaping the details of the Kellys Academies.
- A commitment to the Kellys Academies being at the heart of the local community, serving it and being accountable to it. This will be reflected in the governance of the Academies and by the enduring link with the Local Authority.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The recommendation to the Executive is for agreement in principle to support and develop an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted to the DCSF. Therefore there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The detailed financial implications will be addressed when the draft EOI is submitted to the Executive for approval. The colleges would continue to be funded for revenue purposes by Government grant and the capital costs of replacement similarly would be met by Government grant. The proposed sponsors Edutrust would endow £3m to be used for the benefit of the colleges. The Academy proposals would not affect the Council's duty and plans to acquire additional land to enable redevelopment and expansion which has been the subject of separate reports to the Executive.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 An Academy is a particular type of independent state school. Unlike schools which are maintained by the Local Education Authority (community, foundation and voluntary aided schools) they receive an initial substantial sum from a donor and their main capital and revenue funding comes direct from central government. At this stage there are no legal implications arising from the requested "in principle" support for the Council working with the Colleges and Edutrust on the EOI. The DCSF have confirmed that the EOI does require formal approval by the Executive. At the EOI stage the legal implications for the Council and the Colleges will be considered. Brent Council has experience of transfer to Academy status given the City Academy and the present Wembley Academy proposal.
- 5.2 The legal issues that will need to be addressed in the next report include land ownership/acquisition issues, procurement, planning, decision making and governance.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Academy status will not change the admission arrangements of the Colleges. Edutrust and the Governors of the Kelly colleges are committed to Inclusion

and Diversity and the EOI will set out how the Educational vision and Governance arrangements will fulfil this commitment. Edutrust have been approved as Academy Sponsors according to the DCSF equality and diversity principles.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 Staff of the colleges will continue to be employees of the Governors and not of the Council.

Background Papers (essential)

i) Edutrust Background information

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