

By: Grahame Ward, Director - Resources

To: CHILDREN FAMILIES AND EDUCATION POLICY OVERVIEW
COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2008

Subject: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF)

Classification: Unrestricted

File Ref:

Summary and Recommendations: To provide CFHE Policy Overview Committee with an update on the current position with regard to our BSF Programme

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

1. (1) The Building Schools for the Future Programme is a national programme that is aimed at re-providing/re-modelling all of the secondary accommodation in England over the next 15 years. Whilst the investment, which is very significant, is in the schools physical and technological infrastructure the programme, at least here in Kent, is about the transformation of teaching and learning in our schools.

(2) The investment which is being managed nationally by Partnership for Schools [PFS] is being made in 15 waves and amounts to in excess of £40 billion nationally. Our estimate for Kent is that the investment into our schools should amount to some £1.8 billion.

(3) Kent received confirmation in late 2005 that we were in Wave 3, and by the end of 2006 we were confirmed as being in Waves 4, 5 and 6.

(4) Waves 3, 4 and 6 make up our first Local Education Partnership LEP, and will be delivered by the same Partnership, with Wave 5 being the first Wave in our second LEP.

(5) Waves 3 and 4 cover the Gravesham and Thanet districts and include The Community College Whitstable and Herne Bay High. Wave 5 covers Dover and Shepway districts, and Wave 6 covers the Swale district.

Delivery Mechanism

2. (1) The Programme requires us to establish a Local Education Partnership (LEP) as the delivery mechanism. This is a partnership between the consortium who win the bid, KCC and PFS. For Kent we agreed that we wanted our programme to be split over three LEPs, each of which would be worth in the region of £600m.

(2) Members will recall that before Christmas 2007 the County Council agreed to the appointment of Land Securities Trillium (partnering with Northgate as the ICT provider) as our Preferred bidder for LEP 1 with a target date for reaching Financial Close of mid-June 2008.

LEP1 Contractual Close Programme

3. (1) The BSF Team continues to work closely with Land Securities, Northgate Information Systems, and their respective supply chain partners to finalise contractual positions. As was to be expected the finalisation of the details within the contract have encountered some challenges which are slowly being resolved. In order to ensure that the focus is on the overall contract meetings between LST and the individual schools was put on hold for a period but have now been restarted (will be when the POC meets).

(2) **Both parties are confident that we will reach financial close but it is possible that there may be a number of further challenges as the agreement is finalised**

(3) The Final Business Case is currently being drafted. This is the key deliverable to PfS, DCSF and HM Treasury to progress to contractual close.

(4) For the schools within Wave 3, all of the necessary Planning applications have now been submitted and they are due to have been considered by our Planning committee before the end of the current academic year at the very latest.

LEP1: Wave 4

4. Preliminary design and costing work for the Wave 4 is now well under way. This exercise is important in developing our Wave 4 schools as 'intelligent clients' ahead of their discussions with the LEP (scheduled to start at the beginning of the next academic year). The exercise also provides Kent with high-level control over the scope and cost of the Wave 4 projects that the LEP will develop and deliver.

LEP2: Wave 5

5. (1) The Project Initiation Document (PID) has been submitted to PfS. The PID outlines the project management arrangements for the Wave 5 project. The DCSF will attend Kent shortly to provide a 'remit for change' for the Wave 5 project. The date is yet to be finalised. Preliminary design work has begun for Wave 5 schools and will be complete by the end of the academic year.

(2) Kent's Wave 5 project initiates, as indicated, the procurement of LEP2. Although the procurement itself will not commence for at least eight months, the BSF Team is holding informal discussions with potential partners to test the current capacity of the market to bare a second major Kent BSF programme.

Batched Academies Procurement

6. The procurement of 5 Academies via the Partnerships for Schools National Framework is now under way. The five Academies are: Cornwallis Academy; New Line Learning Academy; Marsh Academy; Spires Academy; and Axtane Academy.

Two bidders are to submit tenders: Carrillion and Balfour Beatty. We expect to announce a preferred bidder in the third quarter of this year.

LEP1: Wave 6

7. The Secondary Transformation Team has begun initial planning for schools in the Swale Cluster which form Kent's Wave 6 project.

Recommendations

8. Members of the Children Families and Education Policy Overview Committed are asked TO NOTE the information.

GRAHAME WARD

Director – Resources

(01622) 696551

Grahame.ward@kent.gov.uk

Background documents:

None

Other useful information:

None