

Report of the Strategic Director of Services for Children and Young People to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 13 January 2009

BZ

Subject:

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Phase 3

Summary statement:

Proposals for addressing the requirements of Phase 3 schools.

Kath Tunstall, Director for Services to Children and Young People

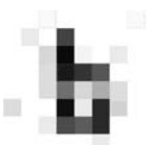
Portfolio:

Children and Young People

Report Contact: Cindy Peek
Phone: (01274) 431266

Improvement Area:

Young People and Education



2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



1. Summary

- 1.1 Proposals for addressing the requirements of Phase 3 schools.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following on from BSF Phases 1 and 2, which resulted in the construction of 3 new school builds at Buttershaw, Salt and Tong (Phase 1) and the ongoing new build developments at Beckfoot, Grange, Greenhead and Hanson in our secondary estate (Phase 2 PFI) with Chellow, Delius, Phoenix and Guardhouse (Phase 2 Design and Build) in our primary estate, Phase 2 BSF will provide the re-organisation of our Special Schools with co-located generic provision for primary and secondary aged pupils. The Council is now in the process of securing the third and final phase of the BSF programme.
- 2.2 BSF Phase 3 will target the remainder of the school estate not previously engaged in BSF or the Academy programmes to date. Schools built in the previous ten years will receive ICT only investment. This means that BSF Phase 3 will incorporate 13 existing secondary schools and 2 proposed new schools - Communication and Interaction (C & I) and Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) for capital investment, as well as 4 ICT only schools. This means that we will be dealing with the education transformation of 19 schools in our final phase for BSF, the largest single phase in the country so far.
- 2.3 Our Strategy for Change 1 (SFC1) was submitted in September 2008, with positive feedback from Partnerships for Schools (Pfs). We have also submitted 2 business cases for the development of the 2 new special schools, which have been positively received. SFC1 detailed what we are aiming to achieve in terms of educational aspiration. We are now in the process of developing our Strategy for Change 2 (SFC2), which is due on 19 January 2009. This will describe how we deliver our educational transformation across the District and how we will utilise the BSF programme to achieve this.
- 2.4 The Government expects that through the PFI investment (secondary schools only) that local authorities will spread the capital programme across the school estate through a mixture of new builds (50%); remodelling (35%) and refurbishment (15%). Remodelled schools are those which have some parts rebuilt, with the remainder of the school refurbished. In Phase 1 we built 3 new schools. In Phase 2 we will build 5 new schools and provide a mixture of substantive new build and targeted refurbishment in 2 schools. This means that in Phase 3 schools we will be able to provide up to 4 new build schools, 3 refurbished schools with the balance considered to be remodelled schools. The financial model for PFI Credits (the funding vehicle) will be predicated on pupil numbers as in previous Phases of BSF. The amount of funding available will be the overall deciding factor on the investment in new buildings, remodelled buildings and refurbishment of the existing estate.
- 2.5 The DCSF expects local authorities to expand popular and successful schools. This means that we have to consider where we can expand popular and successful schools - we have two such schools in the District, Ilkley Grammar and Bingley Grammar which are continually oversubscribed and achieve over 60% 5 A* to C including English and Maths.

- 2.6 The 2006 Education and Inspection Act requires local authorities to provide a diversity of schools provision. We have addressed this in our SFC1, proposing a mixture of Academies, Trust Schools, Voluntary Aided Schools, Voluntary Controlled Schools, Faith Schools and Federated Schools. The National Challenge programme which provides additional support to schools below the floor target of 30% 5 A* to C including English and Maths are also expected to partner with stronger schools and in some cases to form National Challenge Trusts with their partners.
- 2.7 The Government also requires that all 17 year olds (from 2013) and all 18 year olds (from 2015) will be retained in education or training. This means that consideration needs to be given to the size of post 16 provision and in particular our School 6th forms to ensure that places are available to deal with this expectation. Bradford is also one of only 3 authorities in the country with a rising young population, so our pupil place planning must consider the need for larger schools in some areas whilst retaining 5% surplus places across our schools in order to build in flexibility of choice/parental preference and allow for unpredicted influx into the district. We have worked with schools individually to ascertain pupil place numbers for 6th form provision and will be consulting shortly on these. Pupil place planning for 11 - 16 year olds is being revised to reflect the requirements of a growing young population and our need for 5% surplus places.
- 2.8 In July and October of this year we held two workshop half days with the BSF Phase 3 schools and a range of partners to explore how we could make best use of the investments in schools and work together with other potential capital investment in the District to ensure added value as well as value for money schemes. Discussions are ongoing regarding possible developments of new libraries, the swimming pool strategy, regeneration opportunities and PCT investment in order to ascertain if there is any synergy which can be exploited within our Phase 3 developments.
- 2.9 The 17 existing schools and the 2 proposed new special schools are developing individual School Strategies for Change (SSfC). We are expected to have some completed drafts incorporated into our SFC2 in January 2009 with all SSfCs being completed in time for inclusion in our Outline Business Case (OBC) due in June 2009. The SSfCs will include schools' visions for their educational transformation and how they will utilise BSF as a tool to achieve these. Schools are expected to consult with the community and other agencies on the development of these strategies as well as engage with staff, governing bodies and pupils. Schools are being supported by Education Bradford to develop their strategies and by Area Managers and Area Co-ordinators to undertake wider consultation.

3. Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 Decisions must be taken on which schools will be new build, which ones will be remodelled and which will be refurbished, all within the funding envelope provided.
- 3.2 Considerable work has been undertaken already to ascertain the condition of the current buildings and assessments made on value for money regarding refurbishment or new building works. We are also mindful of the need to ensure that refurbishment addresses current repairs and maintenance requirements and would look to include this work within the overall programme. At the heart of all this is the need to drive up education attainment.

3.4 Whilst each school is considered individually according to needs of the current buildings, consideration is also given to the requirements under legislation to promote diversity and the expectation that popular and successful schools should be expanded, and the need for increased 6th form provision.

4. For Other Consideration

4.1 **Belle Vue Boys and Belle Vue Girls** are looking to federate. The LSC has agreed funding to build a 6th form block on the Belle Vue Girls site, which is hoped will provide mixed sex provision in the long term. For BSF 3 investment the site will require some demolition of existing provision and new build work to join the two schools together for some shared provision, initially for administration and management, but also to incorporate limited shared learning/socialising spaces in the first instance. Belle Vue Girls in particular will be an expanded site to provide for larger cohorts of students with 1,971 buildings replaced with new ones. This will be considered to be a remodelled site.

4.2 **Carlton Bolling** is looking to develop federated working with their link primary schools. The school has had investment in its buildings over previous years but it will need to be considered for full refurbishment for example, new windows throughout, with the possible inclusion of an atrium. This will be designated as a remodelled site.

4.3 **Laisterdyke** is in fairly good condition and would be considered for mainly refurbishment work, with perhaps some internal remodelling to support their development for vocational learning. This will be considered a refurbished site.

4.4 **St Bede's, St Joseph's and Yorkshire Martyrs** have now federated. Yorkshire Martyrs will close in 2010. St. Bede's and St Joseph's have secured voluntary aided targeted capital funding and have already begun work on some new build. BSF will add to this in order to provide space for larger cohorts of students. This will be 2 remodelled sites.

4.5 **Queensbury** school is currently in Special Measures and is being supported by Thornton Grammar School. Parts of this site are not fit for purpose and will have some new build work as well as some refurbishment. This will be considered a remodelled site.

4.6 **Thornton** school is in fairly good condition and is envisaged to retain 7% surplus places. There will be limited remodelling and some refurbishment. This will be considered a refurbished site.

4.7 **Oakbank** school will be refurbished with some remodelling to develop diploma work and post 16 provision and likely replacement of the 60s buildings. This will be considered a remodelled site.

4.8 **Holy Family** has areas of the site which require attention, so for some parts it will be better value to demolish and to remodel with some refurbishment. Holy Family has a growing 6th form provision, with increased achievement. This will be considered a remodelled site.

4.9 The **C & I school** will be developed on the Thorn Park site (as decided by the Executive on 14 October 2008). This will be a refurbished site with some internal

remodelling to meet the needs of these pupils. This will be considered a refurbished site.

- 4.10 There are a range of options in relation to the siting of the proposed **SEBD** school, reflected in different costs. These range from a refurbished model to a new build at two or three different locations. Subject to budget decision making, this is likely to be a refurbishment or new build at Nab Wood due to its relatively central location and building space.
- 4.11 **Bingley Grammar** is a popular and successful school with several separate blocks, due to VAT issues and previous funding regimes. The site also includes 7 temporary classrooms. There is potential to build a new school on site which would offer value for money. Further discussions are due to take place with colleagues involved in the Bingley Town Centre Plan and Regeneration to ensure all options are considered.
- 4.12 **Ilkley Grammar** is a popular and successful school and is need of expansion. The existing site, however, has serious limitations both in terms of size and suitability, and is severely constrained with its existing school provision. There is a need to review the possible options, which include use of the current site with new build or a combination of refurbishment and renewal, as well as a split site solution using what remains of the old middle school site, or a new build on a new site. When identified, the option must be suitable to meet the current and future needs of the Wharfe Valley.
- 4.13 **Nab Wood School** is currently housed in poor buildings that are no longer fit for purpose. The school has had limited investment over the past years and it would not be cost effective to refurbish these. It is, therefore, proposed to provide a new-build school on the current site as the best value for money option.

5. Options

- 5.1 The range of options has been considered for the different schools as set out in section 4. The degree and range within each site for remodelling/refurbishment will be prescribed by the size of the funding envelope.

6. Financial and Resource Appraisal

- 6.1 Final allocations have not been made but it is expected to be in the region of £205 million for capital investment and £32 million for ICT.
- 6.2 In early January, prior to the submission of SFC2, a costing exercise and appraisal will take place to ensure that what is put forward in outline plans to PfS is affordable within the funding envelope. Should there be discrepancies in this, further consultation work will take place with all schools in order to adjust aspirations to an affordable solution. The proposals in this paper could be met from the current cost envelope.
- 6.3 The cost of providing new schools is approximately £30 million for each secondary school. Income from the sale of the current Ilkley Grammar site would be required in the event of a new-build school on an alternative site.

6.4 The cost of the C&I School would be £2-3 million. The cost of the proposed SEBD provision depends on the options. A new build at Nab Wood would cost up to £10 million; a refurbished model would cost up to £3 million. A new build would require additional capital investment from the 2009 budget process. It is not known what monies would be allocated by Partnership for Schools at this stage.

7. Legal Appraisal

7.1 The Local Authority must take account of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the requirements for robust pupil place planning for 11 - 16 year olds and post 16 provision.

7.2 Once the Council has worked up a sufficiently detailed Project Brief for the Phase 3 schools, and in accordance with PfS expectation that the work will be delivered with the LEP, the Council will be in a position to formally request a New Project Proposal from the LEP. At that stage, the LEP will have 20 working days within which to indicate if they are prepared to submit such a proposal. If they are so prepared, the procedures under the Strategic Partnering Agreement will operate; if they do not wish to proceed with the project, the Council will be free to procure works and services from other sources.

8. Other Implications

8.1 Bradford has a growing young population and BSF Phase 3 will provide needed pupil places in Secondary Schools.

9. Sustainability Implications

9.1 BSF complies with expectations from BREEAM standards – “very good”.

10. Community Safety Implications

10.1 All schools will take into consideration ‘secure by design’ in their development.

11. Human Rights Act

11.1 There are no direct implications under the Human Rights Act.

12. Trade Union

12.1 Staff and Trade Unions will be consulted within the range of stakeholders.

13. Not for publication documents

13. None.

14. Recommendations

- 14.1 That the Executive approve the proposals as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.9 for remodelling and refurbishment of the schools listed.
- 14.2 That the Executive approve the proposed SEBD school being provided through refurbished provision or through new build; subject to the budget decision making process.
- 14.3 That the Executive authorise the continued options appraisals for Bingley Grammar and Ilkley Grammar Schools.
- 14.4 That the Executive approve the re-provision of Nabwood School through a new build on its current site.
- 14.5 That the Executive delegates to the Strategic Director for Services to Children and Young People, the authority to develop the approved options and carry out such other work necessary for the development and submission of Strategy for Change.
- 14.6 That the Executive delegates to the Strategic Director for Services to Children and Young People, the authority to take such actions necessary to further the intent of Phase 3 within the parameters of SfC2 and the BSF Strategic Partnering Agreement, up to the point of a draft Outline Business Case.
- 14.7 That the Strategic Director for Services to Children and Young People report back to Executive with that draft Outline Business Case for approval, prior to its submission to Partnerships for Schools and the DCSF.

15. Background Documents

None.