

REPORT TO: CABINET
DATE: 14 JANUARY 2010
SUBJECT: BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - UPDATE AND STAFFING
WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS
REPORT OF: PETER MORGAN
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES
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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme and to seek approval for the establishment of additional posts to support the programme.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The additional posts are required to support the BSF programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- i) note the progress of the BSF programme;
- ii) approve the establishment of additional posts as detailed in this report to support the programme;
- iii) note that all costs will be contained within the approved budget of £300,000 for 2009/10 and that a further report will be presented to the next meeting updating the total cost, benefits and risks of programme entry.

KEY DECISION: No.

FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not appropriate.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:****Financial:**

Members will recall that on 16 April 2009 it was agreed that £300,000 from the Council's Modernisation Fund would be allocated to the initial 2009/10 costs of the BSF programme.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Not appropriate.

Risk Assessment:

A full risk assessment for the BSF programme is being developed.

Asset Management:

Not appropriate.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		✓	
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

Not appropriate.

IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

Not appropriate.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

25 November 2009 – Report to Cabinet BSF: Outcome of Readiness to Deliver Submission.
25 November 2009 – Report to Cabinet BSF: Appointment of Project Director and Project Manager.
25 November 2009 – Report to Cabinet BSF: Proposed Delegation of Decision Making Powers to the Project Board.

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: UPDATE AND STAFFING

1. Background and Update

- 1.1 Members will recall from previous reports to Cabinet, the background to the following updates.
- 1.2 The Readiness to Deliver document was resubmitted to Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)/Partnerships for Schools (PfS) by the due date of 7 December 2009. Representatives from these two organisations, and the Office of the Schools Commissioner, will visit Sefton on 11 January 2010 to meet with the Chief Executive, the Strategic Director – Children, Schools & Families, the Strategic Director – Regeneration & Environmental Services, the Legal Director, Project Director, Project Manager and other senior officers. It is anticipated that this will be followed by an invitation to attend a Remit Meeting, before 31 March 2010, which is a high level meeting which focuses on setting strategic objectives and targets as informed by the Readiness to Deliver assessment and pre-engagement process.
- 1.3 Cabinet approved the delegation of decision making powers to the Project Board on 25 November 2009, including the decision on the appointment of advisors for Finance, Legal and ICT/Education. Project Board confirmed these appointments as detailed below:-
- Finance Advisors – Deloitte
 - Legal Advisors – Addleshaw Goddard
 - ICT/Education – Edunova
- These appointments are subject to the necessary funding being approved and are initially limited to the period leading up to approval of the Outline Business Case.
- 1.4 Sefton's assigned representative from PfS, David Ogden, contributed to these appointments and will be involved in all aspects of Sefton's BSF programme.
- 1.5 Advertisements for Project Director and Project Manager were placed in the Guardian and Sunday Times in early December and this recruitment process is being managed by Gatenby Sanderson. It is anticipated that personnel will be in post by June 2010. The interim Project Director and Project Manager will continue in post until these permanent positions can be filled.
- 1.6 Further permanent appointments for a Project Officer, to support the Project Manager and a Project Communications and Engagement Manager will need to be actioned early in the New Year, with a part-time, appointment made for Communications Officer in the interim. Cabinet is asked to approve these further appointments which will not be advertised externally in the first instance in order to ensure that any staff who may be eligible for redeployment can be considered. A number of senior officers, across all Directorates, are involved in the BSF programme and as this gathers pace it is anticipated that some back filling arrangements will have to be made to support these officers.
- 1.7 The Project Board, chaired by the Strategic Director – Communities, continues to meet regularly to steer the programme and the Workstream Teams are all actively working on the Strategy for Change (SfC) Documentation which will be required approximately 6 months after the Remit Meeting has taken place. The Local Authority and each Phase 1 school are required to produce a SfC which sets out, in considerable detail, the transformational, educational vision and strategies that provide the information needed to meet later requirements of the estate strategy, design brief and procurement, at Authority and school level. Meetings with the Phase 1 schools and the wider group of secondary/special schools are ongoing and will gather pace as the SfCs are developed.

- 1.8 The Chief Executive has formally written to the CEO at Wirral MBC to invite a nominated officer to join Sefton's Project Board and to continue the working relationship that has developed, especially with regard to the possibility of forming a joint Local Education Partnership.

2. Funding Update

- 2.1 Members will recall that on 16 April 2009 it was agreed that £300,000 from the Council's Modernisation Fund would be allocated to the initial 2009/10 costs of the BSF programme and it is anticipated that the costs for 2009/10 can be contained within this budget. No further commitment above this sum will be made until the Council has approved the resources necessary to achieve the Outline Business Case.

- 2.2 This report deals with the preparations necessary for the Council to be ready to progress to the initial stage of the BSF programme. No commitments above the approved £300,000 will be made until a further report has been presented to the Cabinet detailing the total cost of achieving Outline Business Case approval and fully assessing the risks and opportunities of the funding. This report will be presented to the next Cabinet meeting and an appropriate budget will need to be established as part of the 2010/11 capital and revenue budget.

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- i) note the progress of the BSF programme;
- ii) approve the establishment of additional posts as detailed in this report to support the programme;
- iii) note that all costs will be contained within the approved budget of £300,000 for 2009/10 and that a further report will be presented to the next meeting updating the total cost, benefits and risks of programme entry.