

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) –  
PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on delivering the council's BSF programme.
- 1.2 Good progress is being made. Changes have increased efficiency. Work on site is progressing well. Pre construction work is underway on all remaining projects.
- 1.3 All work should be complete by end 2015. The council will not receive any more BSF funding after 2015. Other sources of capital funding are available for schools.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is an initiative launched by government in 2003. The intent was to rebuild and renew all of England's 3,500 secondary schools and provide high quality ICT to support improved learning. Alternative ways of teaching and making innovative use of ICT together with managing schools differently are other key features.
- 2.2 In mid 2009 the council received approval to proceed with work at the following schools (BSF projects).
  - Brumby Engineering College
  - Melior Community College
  - ftc Academy
  - The St Lawrence Academy
  - Frederick Gough School
  - St Bede's RC School
  - St Hugh's Communication and Interaction Specialist College
- 2.3 The council entered into a contract with Engage North Lincolnshire Ltd to deliver our BSF programme. Engage North Lincolnshire Ltd is a 'Local Education Partnership' (LEP). The role of a LEP is to manage

the integrated ICT installation alongside the design and construction of BSF schools. Contracts were also entered to maintain the new school buildings and ICT.

- 2.4 In July 2010, the national BSF programme ended. As the council was at an advanced stage, we received confirmation from government that our BSF schools would still receive the funding needed to fully deliver our local BSF projects. Since then, the council has received £28.9m of grant funding to continue delivering our BSF programme.
- 2.5 The council has changed the governance arrangements for BSF in order to streamline them. This is in recognition of the operational focus of the programme and changes to the external environment. Schools Forum, headteacher and elected member meetings to discuss the whole range of children services matters have replaced the former BSF Project Board. The Adult and Children's Services Cabinet Member continues to take all key decisions.
- 2.6 As noted above, the LEP has contracts to maintain the new school buildings and ICT facilities. In October 2011, the Adult and Children's Services Cabinet Member approved changes that will save BSF schools around £2m over 5 years. The changes consist of a revised ICT contract with the LEP and termination of the FM contract and replacement with a council provided or equivalent service.
- 2.7 In October 2011, the LEP submitted a draft 'Performance Report' to the council. It indicates satisfactory performance.
- 2.8 The council has made good progress to refurbish or create new accommodation and ICT facilities. During 2011, work at two schools totalling approximately £34.5m was fully completed. This is already benefiting potentially 1,735 pupils. Work is currently in progress at two additional schools with a total value of approximately £26.16m that will benefit up to 1,420 pupils. Design work is ongoing for three further schools with a total expected value of £26.24m that will benefit up to 1,991 pupils. In total, the council's seven BSF schools are benefiting from expenditure totaling £86.9m across the two key elements of construction and ICT (£79.5m on construction, £7.4m on ICT), all of which will benefit up to 5,146 pupils.
- 2.9 Some performance related issues with the LEP exist. However, in the context of the overall programme the issues are minor. Main problems are communication, programme and construction quality. Significant effects of the problems are lack of certainty about design/availability of teaching areas, delayed contract starts/handovers and defects taking a long time to resolve after handover. The council has taken prompt action in response to these problems. In December 2011, the LEP confirmed changes that should improve performance. These include changes to how the LEP resources key activities within the programme.

2.10 Appendix 1 to this report provides more detail on each project within the programme.

### 3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 This report is for information only. As such, there are no options for consideration.

### 4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 None.

### 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 **Financial** – The preceding paragraphs highlight specific financial issues. Other salient financial information is set out below:

- A combination of government grant, supported borrowing and direct council capital programme funding currently funds the total programme capital expenditure of £86.9m. All council related capital funding requirements are included in the council's current budget planning arrangements.
- Work to explore the opportunity for reallocating some BSF government grant funding is ongoing.
- Total council funded revenue expenditure of £1,979,702 over the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 is included in the council's current budget planning arrangements. This expenditure mainly funds core BSF team staff and associated costs, legal support, ICT support and 'Education Transformation' work.
- The requirement for revenue funding is subject to regular review. It is minimised as far as possible.
- The programme is on track for delivery within the set figures in the council's current budget planning arrangements.
- Government capital funding for schools and councils is now available in the allocations noted below.

- 1 Basic Need - allows for new school places.
- 2 Maintenance - for school buildings and children's centres - separated into a local authority schools pot and an academies pot.
- 3 Devolved Capital Grant – direct to schools.
- 4 Funding for 16-19 providers.
- 5 Priority Schools Building Programme. An announcement on phase one of this programme is due to be made early in 2012.

5.2 **Staffing** – delivery of the programme utilises existing staff within the council, with support from external resources (including consultants)

where required. In October 2011, the Adult and Children's Services Cabinet Member approved a strategy for use of consultants on the BSF programme. Consequently, annual savings totalling £48,215 are being realised from 2011/12 onwards.

- 5.3 **Property and IT** – the BSF programme is delivering new and refurbished secondary schools and academies. It will as a result reduce the maintenance backlog. ICT infrastructure, equipment and software are provided to a high standard and benefits from an ICT managed service for maintenance support.

## 6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 **Statutory** – progression of the works via the BSF programme and associated council BSF team enables schools and the council to fulfil its legal and statutory construction, design and procurement obligations. In particular, those contained within the Building Regulations, Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, Health and Safety and Work Act, various Approved Codes of Practice issued by the Health and Safety Executive, the Public Contracts Regulations and the councils Contract Procedure Rules. The BSF programme also contributes significantly to the councils 'pupil place planning' obligations.
- 6.2 **Environmental** – construction works and processes reduce adverse impacts upon the environment. Developments achieve a BREEAM 'very good' rating and use on-site renewable and/or low carbon technologies wherever possible.
- 6.3 **Diversity** – completed BSF projects are fully accessible and provide facilities to enhance the extended schools offer.
- 6.4 **Crime and disorder** – there are no direct implications.
- 6.5 **Risk** – all risks at a programme level are recorded in a programme risk register and are as such, incorporated into the councils service based risk management procedures (previously they were considered and reviewed by the BSF Project Board). Project specific risks are recorded by the LEP in a project specific risk register and are actively managed by the LEP project team, together with the each school and the council BSF team.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 This report is for information only. No specific consultation has been undertaken.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet note the contents of this report.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: - None**

## **Appendix 1 – BSF Project Specific Update**

### **Brumby Engineering College**

Just under 7500m<sup>2</sup>

790 places

In October 2011, Brumby Engineering College became the first BSF school to reach full completion on site.

Work at Brumby Engineering College started in June 2009, and has included the creation of new Science and teaching blocks, a modernised activity studio and music suites.

A new hall, kitchen and dining areas have been provided and the drama, technology and activity studio have also been refurbished.

The work has also included extensive new outside areas including a central 'multi use amphitheatre'.

### **Melior Community College**

Around 8500m<sup>2</sup>

945 places

Melior Community College is the only 100% new school within the BSF programme, and the first brand new secondary school for many years within the area.

Teaching started in the new school during the summer term 2011. Work is currently ongoing to complete the outside areas. Part of this work is to complete demolition of the old school and create the space for a new artificial '3G' pitch.

Work started at Melior Community College in November 2009 and outside work will be fully completed in Spring 2012.

### **ftc Academy**

Over 7000m<sup>2</sup>

790 places

Teaching is due to start in the main spine block in January 2012. Work has already been completed at ftc Academy to the old gym, to create 'Discover' centres for years 7, 8 and 9.

Old teaching blocks have been demolished and the existing hall has been fully refurbished to create a large dance, drama, music and performance facility.

The last few months have seen rapid progress at ftc Academy in the lead up to accommodation being ready at the start of the new term.

During 2012 the Galileo wing and external works will be completed together with the demolition of the remaining parts of the old school that are not being refurbished. Galileo forms part of 'Discover', which is a new approach to the organisation of learning at ftc Academy.

### **The St Lawrence Academy**

Just over 6500m<sup>2</sup>

630 places

Work at The St Lawrence Academy commenced in June 2011 with the demolition of the East wing of the main teaching block. The new two-storey East wing steel frame has been installed and work has commenced on the floors and roof. From Summer 2012, work will start on building a new West wing and refurbishing the retained three-storey existing school building and the sports block. A new Atrium will form the new entrance and create a library and dining area linking the new and existing blocks. Final works include demolishing the old technology block and completing the external areas.

This work is all due for completion by September 2013.

### **Frederick Gough School and St Bede's Catholic School**

#### Frederick Gough School

Around 10500m<sup>2</sup>

1238 places

#### St Bede's Catholic School

Around 6500m<sup>2</sup>

628 places

These two schools are entering into the detailed design stages of development and the council are due to sign the design and build contracts in April 2012. Full planning applications have been submitted.

They are both refurbishment schemes and will include new and refurbished specialist and general teaching and learning facilities, social spaces, kitchen and dining areas, outdoor learning areas, and sports facilities.

Consultation events for students, staff, parents and local residents are taking place.

Work is due to start at each site mid to late 2012 and be completed during 2015.

### **St Hugh's Communication and Interaction Specialist College**

Single room extensions and refurbishments

St Hugh's is a minor works scheme within the BSF programme and is in the stage of design development. Work is due to start on site in Summer 2012.