

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 9 September 2009

PRESENTED BY: Strategic Director – Children and Young People

SUBJECT: BSF Outline Business Case

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Executive Board with a summary of the peer assessment undertaken on the BSF Outline Business Case (OBC), the outcome of this assessment and the conditions associated with approval of the OBC.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Executive Board approves the following requirements of the Outline Business Case:

2.1.1 That the Council continues to monitor BSF programme costs closely, making agreed funding available to ensure the effective delivery of the Programme within the expected timescales;

2.1.2 Following the establishment of the Local Education Partnership (LEP) the internal project costs estimated at £300,000 will continue to be committed by the Council during both construction and post construction phase to ensure contract monitoring and support functions can be maintained.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Halton Council submitted the BSF Outline Business Case (OBC) by the deadline date of 22nd April 2009. The OBC was then considered by the DCSF and Partnerships for Schools (Pfs) during June and July. A range of queries and clarifications were then raised.

3.2 Clarification was sought on the level of capital receipts, technical matters related to VAT, site issues (so called abnormalities) along with the provision for hard facilities management and lifecycle costs. In addition, confirmation was sought on the progress of the proposed Academy, the arrangements for the Halton and Warrington Joint Local Education Partnership (LEP), and the level of bidders interest in the Halton BSF Programme. A number of clarifications were also requested from the Section 151 Officer.

3.3 The Main Review Approval (MRA) meeting for Halton BSF Programme was delayed due to the illness of the HM Treasury representative. The Section 151 Officer, BSF Programme Sponsor and BSF Programme Director were invited to the MRA meeting to answer any outstanding issues for the Programme's Outline Business Case. Due to the illness of the Treasury

representative on the panel, the meeting took place via a conference call on 23rd July 2009.

3.4 The MRA meeting praised Halton for the level of stakeholder engagement in the process, the quality of the BSF Outline Business Case, and responsiveness of the Council to any queries and clarifications they had raised. They confirmed their approval for Halton's Outline Business Case subject to the following three technical conditions:

- HM Treasury approval.
- Confirmation by The Council Executive Board of the Council's commitment to post LEP costs; and,
- The approval of the statutory consultation on the "Grange Schools" (Nursery, Infant, Junior and Comprehensive) before the end of September 2009.

3.5

- HM Treasury approval has subsequently been confirmed.
- On the 24 September 2009, Executive Board will be asked to make a decision on the outcome of the statutory consultation to close The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools; change the age range of The Grange Comprehensive from 3-16 years (offering 0-16 provision with support from the day care service) and enlarging the school so that it becomes The Grange School.
- Executive Board through this report is now being asked to confirm the post Local Education Partnership (LEP) funding, thus ensuring all the conditions set by MRA meeting as listed in 3.4 have been met.

3.6 Following the successful approval of the BSF Outline Business Case, the BSF Programme now moves from strategic planning and business case development, to procurement, planning and delivery of the new Halton Secondary School estate.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1
- The conditions set for the approval of the Outline Business Case must be met to secure the funding. The BSF Programme will provide over £167 million capital development and up to £13 million ICT provision (not including the school contributions).
 - The Council costs of £300k per annum have been included within the Council's budget.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Following approval of the BSF Outline Business Case, the Council will enter the next phase of the BSF Programme - the Procurement Phase of the new schools.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

Through the BSF and Primary Capital Programme, Halton aims to transform primary and secondary provision in the borough, creating 21st Century learning facilities.

6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

Through access to excellent Secondary Schools for all pupils, standards will further improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

In developing its Secondary Schools for the future the authority will help enable Halton schools to meet the school sport Public Service Agreement. Opportunities to increase Extended Services through schools and provide more integrated health provision will be developed through BSF.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Schools for the future will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Through the BSF Programme, Halton schools will become a major resource for the communities they serve, and will be designed to offer shared community facilities. This will link with other regeneration projects in the Borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Outline Business Case has been approved subject to the Council meeting the two conditions set in paragraph 3.4. Failure to secure the post LEP funding or the approval of the statutory proposal for The Grange schools could jeopardise the BSF funding for the Programme. It could also lead to Programme delay.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

8.1 The BSF Programme is aimed at increasing diversity, access and choice, address under performance and provide more integrated local services for children, young people and their families.

9.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 9.1 It is a condition of the approval of the BSF Outline Business Case that the commitment to post LEP provision is confirmed, along with the approval of The Grange School planned for the 24th September 2009.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

- 11.1 The conditions must be met by the end of September 2009.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Documents	Place of Inspection	Contact
<u>Strategy for Change Part 1 & (Guidance PfS)</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	Daniel Hennessy – BSF Programme Director
<u>Halton BSF Strategy for Change Part 1</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House, Runcorn and website www.halton.gov.uk/bsf	As above
<u>DCSF approval letters August 2008 , January and March 2009</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House,	As above
<u>Partnerships for Schools Guidance - Strategy for Change Part 1, Part 2 and Outline Business Case</u>	3 rd Floor Chester Building – Grosvenor House	As above