

Committee:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	29 June 2009
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Building Schools for the Future
Responsible Officer:	Director of Schools and Children’s Development, Heather Clements.
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder Schools and Children’s Development, Councillor Anjana Patel.
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Annexe A: Cabinet Reports on Building Schools for the Future 23 April 2009 and 18 June 2009. Annexe B: Letter to Headteachers and Chairs of Governors 27 May 2009. Annexe C: High School Reserves

Section 1 – Summary

A request has been received for an up-date report on Building Schools for the Future. This Report summarises the process to date and outlines the content of two Cabinet reports on Building Schools for the Future.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

1. Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the Government's school investment programme that aims to transform secondary education by investing in all secondary schools. The programme has commenced with Waves 1 – 6a. Harrow has yet to enter the BSF programme.
2. In 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) invited local authorities to submit an Expression of Interest for BSF funding. These were assessed and in March 2009 Harrow was placed 52 out of 70 local authorities yet to enter the programme.
3. It is understood that approximately 40 local authorities from this list were invited to submit a Readiness to Deliver document. These are being assessed and successful local authorities will be invited to enter the BSF programme. There is no specified timescale for this process. Harrow was not invited to submit a Readiness to Deliver document but is working on its submission to ensure that the local authority and schools are in the most advantageous position when invited to submit.

Section 3 – Further Information

4. As part of the preparation process Cabinet considered a report at their meeting on 23 April 2009 and will consider a further report on 18 June 2009. Copies of the reports are at Annexe A for information.

Cabinet Report 23 April 2009

5. Cabinet agreed the April 2009 recommendations that confirmed their commitment to BSF for Harrow and the proposals to meet the Readiness to Deliver criteria. The criteria and Harrow's proposal to meet the criteria are in Section 2 of the report.
6. At the April 2009 meeting Cabinet also agreed to receive a further report with proposals to secure the funding to support the BSF programme.

Cabinet Report 18 June 2009

7. At their meeting on 18 June 2009, Cabinet will consider a report on proposals to secure funding to support BSF in Harrow and an outline governance structure.
8. The report also summarises the contribution that BSF would make in Harrow to transforming learning but also to the Corporate Priority to Build Stronger Communities through schools at the heart of the community.
9. The report identifies the resource requirements under the following headings:
 - i) Affordability
This section proposes how the Council will maximise BSF investment and impact by joining funding streams together wherever possible including DCSF Modernisation grant. In addition, contributions from schools would be expected from their DCSF funding for School's Devolved Formula Capital.

ii) Resources to implement the programme.

There are associated costs with the delivery of BSF including the procurement of the LEP. Information from boroughs already in the BSF programme has been used to develop a model for Harrow and an indicative funding forecast.

10. The report also proposes that contributions from schools when they enter the BSF programme will be requested to support the process. On the basis of this assumption, there is a shortfall in the funding and the report indicates that this would fall to the Council.

11. The High School reserves are approximately £2.4m, excluding capital, in March 2009. Information for each High School is at Annexe C.

Addressing the Funding Gap

12. At the Cabinet meeting on 18 June 2009. Cabinet are also considering a report on Revenue and Capital Outturn 2008-09. Within this report, an underspend is reported. It is proposed that £400k is identified from this underspend to support BSF in Harrow if required during 2009-2010.

13. Feedback from the Cabinet meeting on 18 June 2009 will be provided to EdCF at their meeting.

14. The Director of Schools and Children's Development has met with the Governing Bodies of Wave 1 schools regarding BSF. A letter dated 27 May 2009 was sent to all High School Headteachers and Chairs of Governors about the BSF resource requirements and school contributions. A copy of this letter is at Annexe B. Further meetings with the headteachers of Wave 1 schools are planned for the Summer Term.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

15. The financial implications of BSF are detailed in the 18 June 2009 Cabinet report.

16. A verbal up-date will be given to EdCF about the outcomes of Cabinet's consideration of the BSF Report and the Revenue and Capital Outturn Report.

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	17 June 2009		

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers: None