

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting5th February 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Building Schools for the Future (BSF): Strategy for Change 2

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Building Schools for the Future (BSF): Strategy for Change.

On 21 July 2008 Cabinet agreed the BSF Strategy for Change Part One (SfC1) for submission to government. That document was circulated for Members information and described in outline how the Authority intended to use BSF investment to transform educational opportunities for young people in the borough. SfC1 was approved by government agencies in September 2008. The second part of the Strategy for Change (SfC2) was due for submission. The document concentrated on those schools included in the first of the two BSF funding waves: the six mainstream secondary schools in central Stockton, the two secondary special schools, the pupil referral unit and the proposed Academies in Stockton and Thornaby. A second Strategy for Change would cover the remaining schools when the timing of the second wave of funding was confirmed.

SfC2 included the outcomes of option appraisals to determine the nature of building work appropriate to each school site to support educational transformation within the BSF capital funding allocation. SfC2 also expanded on key elements of the BSF education strategy that would apply borough-wide. All secondary headteachers and college principals had contributed to the development of these sections of SfC2.

SfC2 must include a statement confirming that the Wave 6 project would be affordable within the resources available to the Authority. A summary of the affordability position was included in the report. The Authority was also required to reaffirm its acceptance of the national BSF funding and procurement model including a Local Education Partnership as the local delivery agent, and a centrally managed ICT service for schools. This was first agreed by Cabinet on 5 October 2006 and a letter signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive was sent as part of the Readiness to Deliver submission. The draft SfC2 as circulated to

Members repeated that commitment to the national models.

RESOLVED that

1. the draft Strategy for Change Part 2 as presented to Members be submitted for assessment by government agencies.
2. in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, the Director of Children, Education and Social Care be given delegated authority to make any necessary minor amendments to the Strategy, prior to its submission to relevant government agencies.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Strategy for Change Part 2 was the second of three documents to be submitted for approval by government agencies in order to secure the release of BSF funding. Strategy for Change Part 1 was approved in September 2008. The Outline Business Case (OBC) must be submitted in July 2009.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS – the national BSF delivery agency) had published prescriptive guidance on the content of SfC2. The draft as circulated to Members conformed to that guidance. Early drafts had been shared with government agencies to ensure compliance with national requirements.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillors Cook, Cunningham and Nelson declared personal/non-prejudicial interests in respect of this item as they were members of governing bodies of the schools referred to in the report. Also Councillor Cook had a relative that was a pupil at one of the schools referred to in the report.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Friday, 13th February 2009

Proper Officer
09 October 2009