

<b>Item No.</b> 6.5	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 30/07/2007	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Major Projects Board
<b>Report title:</b>		Update on Southwark Schools for the Future	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director For Major Projects	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. To note this report

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Outline Business Case Approvals**

2. The normal approval process has three stages, firstly Partnerships for Schools, secondly, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and finally HM Treasury. It has been recognised that this is a cumbersome process, and the three organisations (PfS, DCSF and HM Treasury) have developed a new process of concurrent review. The process involves an initial detailed review by PfS, prior to a review meeting including all three organisations.
3. Southwark have been asked to be the pilot for this review process. PfS completed their review on Monday 16 July, and the review meeting is scheduled for 2 August. This meeting will be attended by Sara Browning (SSF Project Director) and Andrew Forde-Johnson (Major Projects Finance Lead).
4. Following this review meeting, it is likely that some further minor amendments will be required to the OBC. These amendments will need to be made prior to the final approval being given that will allow us to publish the OJEU notice. It is not anticipated that these changes will be of a material nature, and hence will be made under delegated authority without the need for further executive decisions.
5. It is expected that the OJEU notice will be published at the end of August.

### **Local Education Partnership Bidders' Day**

6. A formal bidders' day was held on 19 July at St Michael's School. Approximately 90 potential bidders attended the day, from 60 companies. The key note address was given by Cllr. Caroline Pidgeon, a speech was also given by Chris Bull (Deputy Chief Executive). Presentations were also given by Sara Browning (Project Director), Heidi Tully (Head Teacher, Tuke Special School) and Grainne Grabowski (Head Teacher, St Michael's School).
7. Feedback has been very positive - representatives from Partnerships for Schools and our business partner, PwC, felt that it was the best bidders' day that they had attended. At this stage, several consortia are believed to be preparing to respond to the OJEU notice. This would compare very favourably with other London boroughs, who in some cases have had only two consortia. The project team will be seeking formal feedback and will be uploading further information on the website over the next few weeks, in order to try and secure a good field of bidders.

## Walworth Procurement

8. Balfour Beatty and Skanska have been short-listed.

### KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Prior to the next Major Project Board meeting is it anticipated that:
- Statutory consultation on special schools will be completed with executive asked to make final decision September 11 2007
  - DCSF and HM Treasury to approve OBC
  - OJEU notice to be published
  - Outline planning application for Tuke School to be completed
  - School leaders to participate in immersion days to accelerate thinking around change management/transformation

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held	Contact
Outline Business Case	All papers held at Elephant & Castle Development Team Coburg House 63-67 Newington Causeway SE1 6LS	Sara Browning 020-7525-5 007 sara.browning@southwarkl.gov.uk

### AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen McDonald
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