

<b>Item No.</b> 7	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 11 April 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub- Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Schools for the Future: New School Rotherhithe	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Sam Fowler, Project Director Southwark Schools for the Future	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Education and Children's Services' Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the briefing provided below as requested at their meeting held on 14 March 2011.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 2 May 2007, Southwark Executive approved the Southwark Schools for the Future Outline Business Case (OBC). Southwark's OBC established the case for a new 5 form entry secondary school with a 150 place sixth form to meet the needs of an expanding population in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe that would be delivered as part of Phase 3 of Southwark's Building Schools for the Future (BSF).
3. A site selection process was conducted and formed part of the Rotherhithe Area Action Plan. This identified Rotherhithe Primary School as the most appropriate site.
4. In March 2010 Southwark Executive approved a submission to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) to confirm the funding for Phase 3 of Southwark's BSF programme.
5. In April 2010 Partnerships for Schools provisionally allocated £19.6m to fund the delivery of a new school in Rotherhithe.
6. Bacon's College is a popular school on the Rotherhithe peninsula. Bacon's trustees were invited to act as sponsors of the proposed Academy and were engaged in positive discussions with the Authority and the existing primary school.
7. In May 2010 Partnerships for Schools required Southwark to refresh our pupil place planning with actuals and resubmit for their review. This review showed that boroughwide pupil place need had remained flat, and not increased as per the planning data included in our OBC.
8. In July 2010 Southwark was informed that all our projects, including New School Rotherhithe, were unaffected by the cuts to the BSF programme that were announced.
9. In October 2010 PfS informed the council that projects referred to as 'unaffected' in July would be subject to a value for money review to be carried out on behalf of

the Department for Education (DfE). Initially, reference was made to the DfE seeking savings of up to 40% across remaining BSF programmes, referred to as BSF Legacy, nationally. This target figure was since not referred to.

10. In November 2010 the DfE wrote to the council advising us of their decision to no longer support New School Rotherhithe as a result of the pupil place planning data submitted to them in the summer.
11. The DfE had accepted our pupil place planning data showing the need for a new school but considered that the need fell outside of the timescales appropriate for BSF investment.
12. They had concluded that as demand for places would not be apparent until further in the future than projected at OBC and that, based on increases already programmed or underway (i.e. Sacred Heart, New School Aylesbury), boroughwide and without a planning margin, there were sufficient places for Year 7 intake until the start of 2018/19. The OBC delivery timescale for New School Rotherhithe was 2013.
13. The Council continued to argue the case to the DfE and PfS that there was a need to deliver the New School Rotherhithe to meet current local demand and anticipated future boroughwide need.
14. The DfE accepted the need to deliver new places in Rotherhithe through BSF and to this end confirmed support to the council to enable the delivery of an additional 2 forms of entry (300 secondary places). On this basis, the DfE arranged for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) to contact Bacon's College to inform them of their decision to withdraw funding for New School Rotherhithe. They also initiated a discussion in regard to their potential expansion.
15. Aside from an initial discussion with Bacon's College options for the establishment of these new places have not been explored. A full options appraisal will need to be conducted and detailed consultation carried out with stakeholders to identify the most appropriate way to deliver these additional places. This will only be possible following confirmation of the funding available.
16. The Council has asked the Department for Education to clarify the funds available and the process whereby a proposal can be agreed and these funds can be drawn down. No formal response had been received as at 31 March 2011.

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sam Fowler, Project Director Southwark Schools for the Future	
<b>Report Author</b>	Sam Fowler, Project Director Southwark Schools for the Future	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	31 March 2011	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
List other officers here		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	31 March 2011	