

**'Rotherhithe Community Council is very disappointed to hear that the Council is not pursuing the business case for a new secondary school at Rotherhithe and requests the Leader of the Council revisit the current and future pupil projections to ensure that every effort is made to accurately quantify the locally acknowledged need for secondary school places in the area and make a persuasive case for the Secretary of State.**

**RCC asks the Council to share with the community its plans for meeting demand for secondary school places in the Rotherhithe area and for an explanation why the Council is not pursuing the BSF funding route'.**

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 BSF.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. In April 2010 Partnerships for Schools provisionally allocated £19.6m to fund the delivery of a new school in Rotherhithe.
5. 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.
6. 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 yet increased as per the planning data included in our OBC.
7. 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.
8. 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. 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.
9. 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.

MOTION: NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ROTHERHITHE -  
agreed at Rotherhithe community council on 20 January 2011

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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 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.
14. 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.
15. Boroughwide, Headteacher and Academy sponsors of existing schools have expressed concern in regard to an overprovision of secondary places and in particular new places at Aylesbury and in Rotherhithe undermining their viability. There are a number of schools in the borough that are undersubscribed. The trustees of Bacon's have sought further assurances in regard to pupil place demand ahead of any further consideration of providing additional places.
16. The Council has reviewed the pupil place planning data submitted to the DfE in 2010 and concluded that it remains robust.
17. The outcome of the BSF Legacy review, and confirmation of funding for additional places in Rotherhithe, is expected during February 2011 and this shall inform a Cabinet later in the Spring.