

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 April 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub- Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Schools for the Future: New School Rotherhithe, Compass and Southwark Free School	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Project Director, Southwark Schools for the Future	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That Education and Children's Services' Scrutiny Sub-Committee note the briefing provided below.

## BACKGROUND - NEW SCHOOL ROTHERHITHE

2. In 2007 Southwark's Outline Business Case (OBC) established the case for a new 5 form entry (750 place) secondary school with a further 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. In April 2010 Partnerships for Schools provisionally allocated £19.6m to fund the delivery of a new school in Rotherhithe.
4. 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.
5. In October 2010 Partnerships for Schools (PfS) - the government's delivery agent for capital investment programmes in schools, 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).
6. In November 2010 the DfE wrote to the council advising us of their decision to no longer support New School Rotherhithe. 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.
7. In April 2011 Southwark was invited by PfS to submit revised and current Pupil Place Planning data. This submission was made on the 18 April 2011 and it reiterated the need for investment to create new places.
8. This Pupil Place Planning submission concluded that new Year 7 places will be required boroughwide from September 2016, with 5 FE (forms of entry) required by 2019/20 – 150 Year 7 places. It is considered by the Council that these places should be provided in SE16 to respond to and support the ongoing regeneration in the area.

9. On 10 October 2011 the DfE advised that a 700 place University Technical College (UTC) for 14-19 year olds based at Southwark College's Bermondsey site will proceed to the pre-opening stage of the UTC development process with a view to it being open in September 2012.
10. Southwark is working closely with the College and Partnerships for Schools in regard to the progression of these proposals and has been asked to act as contracting party for the necessary development works.
11. The DfE have also advised that they have provisionally agreed to fund a new Free School sponsored by the Compass School Trust which intends to offer 500 mixed secondary places.
12. On the 21 December 2011 the Department for Education advised the Authority in a letter that, in light of the Local Authority's pupil place planning submission, it considered a further 100 secondary places were required in addition to those that would be delivered through Compass and the UTC.
13. The letter invited the Council to 'work with the Department and Compass to consider whether an expanded Free School could be the most appropriate solution to addressing basic need in the area, or whether the additional places could be provided through expanding an existing school. If the latter route proves to be more sensible, ...the Department would be prepared to release funding to the Authority for this purpose.'

## **UPDATE**

### **COMPASS**

14. All schools, including Compass, were advised of the content of the additional places letter and invited to express an interest in expansion. The City of London Academy, St Michael's Catholic College and Compass have responded to this invitation and their proposals are under review.
15. Compass School have yet to identify a site and this non-identification of a site, both permanent and temporary, is a significant risk to the school opening as proposed in September 2013.

### **UTC (University Technical College)**

16. The DfE has now approved the deferral of the opening of the UTC to September 2013. This date remains challenging and there is uncertainty associated with the project as a result of the proposed merger of Lewisham and Southwark College and the potential for this to result in the non-availability of the site or the necessary ancillary facilities for the UTC.

### **SOUTHWARK FREE SCHOOL**

17. In 2011 Southwark Free School (SFS) secured Department for Education pre-opening approval to open in September 2012. At the time of this approval the school was proposed to be established at a site in Great Dover Street.
18. In March 2012 SFS initiated a public consultation process seeking

feedback from local stakeholders in regard to proposals to establish a 420 place primary school at 399 Rotherhithe New Road.

19. The site is not in a condition that would enable the school to be established in September 2012 and Partnerships for Schools is therefore also seeking to identify a temporary site.

### HARRIS FREE SCHOOL

20. Harris Federation has also secured pre-opening approval to open a 420 place primary school on the site of the Academy @ Peckham site in September 2012.

### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Report Author</b>	Sam Fowler	
<b>Version</b>	FINAL	
<b>Dated</b>	16 April 2012	
<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
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	17 April 2012	