Overview and Scrutiny Committee

31st October 2013

Building School for the Future
Programme Update

Report of BSF Project Director

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme.

Programme Overview

2. The BSF Programme set out to rebuild or remodel all of Durham’s secondary schools. Its cancellation in the 2010 prevented much of the original programme from progressing. Despite this set back the Council has continued to progress the school rebuilding programme in Durham through surviving BSF projects and by utilising alternative funding streams, including DfE Capital Grants and the Priority Schools Building Programme. Over half the schools in the County and most of the priority projects will have been completed by the end of the current school building programme.

BSF Wave 3 Projects

3. The first BSF phase in Durham (Wave 3) consisted of 8 schools in the East of the County, plus Durham Johnson and Shotton Hall Primary. All of these projects have been successfully completed, with the exception of Wellfield which is on programme for handover in June 2014 and Seaham which is now part of the Priority Schools Building Programme.

4. The three schools completed under the PFI contract (Sedgefield, Shotton Hall Academy and Shotton Hall Primary) have operated satisfactorily since January 2011. The PFI contract will continue to run until 2024.

5. Both secondary schools are proving popular due to improved performance and results, and the Council continues to work with both to align capacity with parental preference.

6. Problems with pitch drainage have been encountered at Shotton Hall Academy which has caused localised flooding. A solution to this problem is currently being developed by the PFI contractor.
7. Additional funding has been secured by St Bede’s School, which has allowed a further project to be undertaken to refurbish areas of the school not covered by the BSF project.

8. Further works will also be undertaken at Dene School, using residual funding from the BSF project, to provide additional accommodation through the refurbishment of a retained area of the school.

BSF Academies

9. North Durham Academy was completed to programme in July 2013, and opened to students at the start of this school year.

10. The contract for the Consett Academy and Leisure Centre project was awarded in September 2013 and works have commenced on site. The academy and leisure centre will open in summer 2015, in time for the start of the 2015/16 school year.

11. The project co-locates the academy and leisure centre on the Belle Vue site, allowing extensive sports facilities to be made available to both the students and the community. These facilities include:

- a pool hall with two pools and a flume,
- an 8 court sports hall,
- 3 squash courts that double as an activity hall for the school,
- a 100 station fitness suite,
- 3 studio spaces,
- a floodlit artificial turf pitch,
- a floodlit multi use games area,
- a floodlit artificially surfaced sprint track,
- 2 turf pitches / 400 m running track.

12. As part of the overall development a new ground is being built for Consett Football Club at Crookhall. This is on programme for completion in November 2013. Improvements are also being made to Consett Rugby Club’s facilities, which are retained and incorporated into the overall development at Belle Vue. These works will be undertaken under a separate contract during 2014.

ICT

13. ICT systems have been installed in all the BSF schools, and are operating well. The majority of the schools have entered into a managed service arrangement with the Council’s ICT service.
Non BSF Projects

14. The table below lists the various projects that are being delivered outside of the BSF programme using DfE Capital Grants and other funding sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Description of project</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Durham Community Business College</td>
<td>Remodelling of part of school to create a studio school</td>
<td>Completed Sept 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitworth Park</td>
<td>Extension and remodelling of Spennymoor school and its merger with Tudhoe Grange school</td>
<td>On site, completes March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Oaks (SEN)</td>
<td>Addition of a separate 6th form block</td>
<td>Completed Sept 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elemore Hall (SEN)</td>
<td>Addition of new accommodation blocks to the existing listed school building</td>
<td>On site, completes Sept 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolsingham</td>
<td>Extension of lower school to bring all accommodation (except sports &amp; PE) onto a single site</td>
<td>In procurement, completes 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harelaw (SEN)</td>
<td>Remodelling of Greencroft school to provide new premises for Harelaw</td>
<td>In procurement, completes 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meadows (SEN)</td>
<td>Addition of new accommodation blocks and remodelling of existing school</td>
<td>In procurement, completes 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority Schools Building Programme

15. Four projects are currently being delivered through the PSBP, which is centrally procured and delivered by the Education Funding Agency. Durham Trinity SEN, West Cornforth Primary and King James Academy are being procured as capital projects and will open in 2014. Seaham Secondary school is part of a North East PFI schools contract which is currently in procurement, and is forecast to open in 2016.

Finances and Risks

16. In overall terms the BSF and non BSF projects remain on budget.

17. The main risks to the programme are from financial claims relating to unforeseen conditions in a number of schools. Appropriate allowances have been made in the accounts for these claims, funded by savings generated on the remaining projects.
Recommendations

18. The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

Contact: David Theobald  Tel:  03000 260542