



## Report of the Director of Children's Services

### Outer East Area Committee

Date: 05 July 2011

Subject: Building Schools for the Future Phase 5 - E-ACT Leeds East Academy Project

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b> Cross Gates &amp; Whinmoor</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

## Executive Summary

1. Leeds was selected as a Wave 1 Authority under the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. The aim was to re-build and/or refurbish 14 secondary schools in Leeds using a Local Education Partnership (LEP) to procure the projects. Thirteen of these schools in Phases 1 to 4 of the BSF programme have now been procured, nine of which have been completed with the remaining four under construction.
2. BSF Phase 5 - E-ACT Leeds East Academy is the final Phase in Wave 1 and consists of a new build academy on the site of Parklands Girls' High School.
3. On 31 August 2010, members of Executive Board approved the publication of a statutory notice to close Parklands Girls' High School conditional upon the Department for Education (formerly the Department for Children, Schools and Families) approving the opening of a co-educational academy on that site on 01 September 2011. The Department for Education have subsequently approved the Expression of Interest for the Academy.
4. The Academy will be sponsored by E-ACT and will open in the existing building on 01 September 2011 with a transition phase to move from a 4 FE all-girls school to a 6 FE mixed Academy with 200 post-16 places on completion of the new build in February 2013.
5. A comprehensive options appraisal has been undertaken jointly with the sponsor E-ACT, DfE, PfS and the Council which recommended the construction of a New Build Roundhouse Style School to the rear of the site, based on The Roundhouse at Derby College. A reference scheme has been jointly developed with the Leeds Local

Education Partnership which is affordable within the budget and has been approved by E-ACT and Children's Services.

6. Consultation has taken place with LCC city planners, urban design and highways during design development and ward members have been regularly briefed on the progress of the project. In addition, a Public consultation has taken place at the school involving pupils, staff and residents of the community and the adjacent primary school has been consulted throughout the process.
7. Members of the Area Committee are recommended to comment on and support the proposals to build the new E-ACT Leeds East Academy on the site of Parklands Girls High School.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Area Committee to comment on and support the proposals to build the new E-ACT Leeds East Academy on the site of Parklands Girls High School.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 On 9 March 2005, Members of Executive Board approved the submission of the Strategic Business Case (SBC) to the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Education) for the Council's Wave 1 BSF Programme. The SBC acts as the overriding plan for the delivery of the Building Schools for the Future Programme in Leeds and sets out the vision for Education in Leeds
- 2.2 On 07 April 2010, Members of Executive Board approved the publication of a statutory notice to close Parklands Girls' High School on 31 August 2011 conditional upon the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) approval to open an academy on that site opening 01 September 2011.
- 2.3 In October 2010, the Department for Education (formerly DCSF) approved the Expression of Interest for a co-educational Academy. The Academy will be sponsored by E-ACT, a not-for-profit educational foundation committed to promoting excellence in education and learning (E-ACT has eleven Academies already open, including Leeds West Academy). The lead specialism will be English and the associated specialism will be Business and Enterprise.
- 2.4 The Academy will open in the existing building on 01 September 2011 with a transition phase to move from a 4 FE all-girls school to a 6 FE mixed Academy with 200 post-16 places until the new build is completed in February 2013.
- 2.5 E-ACT have produced an Education Brief with the following vision:
  - E-ACT's vision is to provide "Excellence in Education for All" in its Academies, by ensuring that the life chances of all its students are enhanced. E-ACT will support the Academy to ensure its students become successful citizens who contribute fully and effectively to the Academy and to the social and economic well-being of the wider community.

The Education Brief also includes E-ACT's declared aims:

- Develop Centres of Excellence through innovative approaches to teaching and learning, to ensure that all students achieve their personal and academic potential.
- Provide the highest quality of educational experience and widest opportunities for all, irrespective of ability, gender, faith or race.

- Establish Academies that foster unity and citizenship, based on respect for people from all backgrounds.
- Invest in the community to improve opportunities for everyone.

2.6 The overall objectives of the project are:

- To deliver a 6 form entry, mixed 11-18 Academy, with 200 post-16 places which would replace Parklands Girls' High School, a girls community school situated in the Killingbeck and Seacroft district of Leeds.
- To open an Academy in the existing building by September 2011 with the new build being available in February 2013.
- To deliver an Academy within the budget.
- To deliver E-ACT's vision for the proposed Academy - to provide 'Excellence in Education for All'.
- To improve standards via governance, leadership and management, teaching and learning, curriculum development and delivery and the flexibilities offered by the Academy model.
- Educational transformation for pupils.
- To ensure the sustainability of the Academy into the future.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

#### **3.1 Scope of The Project**

3.1.1 Parklands Girls' High School was originally in Phase 3 of the Wave 1 Programme the original scope of works included a mixture of new build refurbishment and remodel utilising the Design and Build contract.

3.1.2 Since the agreement to develop an academy, the project has moved to Phase 5 of the programme and has been re-scoped to include an increase in capacity:

##### New Proposal

- Proposed Academy capacity: 1100 comprising 900 pupils aged 11 to 16 and 200 pupils aged 16 to 18.
- Service commencement - February 2013.
- The scope of work comprises 100% new build.
- Design and Build contract.

#### **3.2 Design Proposals / Scheme Design**

3.2.1 A comprehensive options appraisal has been produced jointly with the sponsor E-ACT, DfE, PfS and the Council which recommended the construction of a New Build Roundhouse Style School to the rear of the site, which is based on the concept formulated for The Roundhouse at Derby College. A reference scheme has been developed jointly with the Leeds Local Education Partnership and this is affordable within the budget available and has been approved by E-ACT and Children's Services.

3.2.2 The Academy will be a 6 form entry, mixed Academy, with 200 post-16 places (1,100 total).

3.2.3 The new building consists of a steel trussed North Light frame on concrete pad foundations clad with steel panels set on a brick plinth at ground level. There will be large areas of powder coated aluminium curtain walling with some glass, particularly at low level but generally polycarbonate glazing. The roof will be a built-up system

incorporating at least 10% North Lights with perforated finished liner deck. Internally there will be 'pod rooms' of varying sizes which in the main will be teaching spaces. The pods consist of modular steel panels over clad with either glass or coated steel elevation. In addition there will be a number of open learning spaces with associated FF&E. Large internal spaces such as the Sports Hall will be built in a more traditional manner using blockwork for robustness. The administration rooms will be created using lightweight metal stud partitioning with painted plasterboard or pods.

- 3.2.4 External treatment consists of soft & hard landscape to the front of the building and to the teaching areas to the rear. The existing car park and entrances are to be retained. The existing tennis courts will be resurfaced to provide hard play area.
- 3.2.5 For further details of the proposed site and plans, refer to the Annex 1 - Site plan and floor plans. For views of the proposed exterior and landscaping, refer to Annex 2 - External views.
- 3.2.6 A pre-application presentation of the design proposals was given to Plans Panel (East) on 14 April 2011. A number of comments were received and the Plans Panel requested that the scheme be brought back to the 16 June 2011 meeting for a further pre-application presentation with further information on the proposed materials, car parking and public consultation and evidence of why the building cannot be accommodated within the north-western section of the site. It is proposed that a full planning application is submitted in July 2011 for determination at the October 2011 Plans Panel (East).

### 3.3 Programme

- 3.3.1 The key project milestones are summarised below:

Key Milestone	Date
Pre-application presentation 1 to Plans Panel	14 April 2011
E-ACT Approval to the New Build Roundhouse Style School	05 May 2011
Public Consultation event	11 May 2011
Design Freeze	09 June 11
Pre-application presentation 2 to Plans Panel	16 June 2011
Submit Planning Application	04 July 2011
Full Planning Approval	06 October 2011
Commercial and Financial Close	07 October 2011
Construction Commencement of the New Building	10 October 2011
Construction Completion and Handover of the New Building	18 February 2013

## **4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

### **4.1 Risk Management**

4.1.1 A comprehensive Project Risk Register has been developed to enable the continual, effective monitoring of the risks towards achieving successful delivery of the Project. A summary of the key risks is reported and reviewed regularly to the Children's Services Project Board.

### **4.2 Equality Diversity and Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 This report does not have a particular impact on any of the following groups: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and maternity, Religion or belief.

4.2.2 For the project an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form has been completed, which determined that it is not necessary to carry out a formal impact assessment.

4.2.3 However, in procuring the project the proposals have been and will continue to consider its impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The E-ACT Leeds East Academy project will impact on the Children and Young People's Plan by fully supporting the pledges made within The 'Leeds Education Challenge'. E-ACT supports the ambition for Leeds to be recognised as a Child Friendly City and understands the importance of the 5 outcomes, 11 priorities and 3 obsessions.

### **4.4 Consultation**

4.4.1 A Communication Plan has been developed which identifies stakeholders, their interests and specifically what success of the project means to them, key messages and the arrangements for implementing and managing the stakeholder engagement strategy. The Communication Plan also ensures that consultation will be carried out through established protocols within Children's Services and the wider City Council to ensure all stakeholders, including parents, carers and young people are kept fully informed and engaged in the procurement and construction stages of the project. This was developed from experience acquired on earlier Schools PFI projects and the Council's BSF Programme.

4.4.2 Stakeholders in this project are identified as:

- E-ACT (Academy Sponsor).
- The existing school, the head teacher, governors, staff, parents, pupils and the wider community.
- Children's Services department.
- The City Council's Executive Board Members.
- The Children's Services Project Board.
- The BSF Project Team.
- Ward members (where the academy is located).
- Department for Education (DfE).
- Partnerships for Schools (PfS).
- Other agencies and specialist bodies, including Sport England, English Heritage, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) etc.
- Employee representatives.
- Media.

4.4.3 Communication and consultation on the project to date has included a range of key stakeholders including:

- Executive Board report on 22 June 2011.
- Public consultation at the school on 11 May 2011, including governors, staff, parents, pupils and the wider community.
- Member of Parliament.
- Members briefings have been held in Nov, Jan, Feb, April/ May and most recently at the school on 09 June 2011.
- Chair of Governors and Governor meetings / briefings.
- Staff meetings.
- Inner East Area Committee meeting on 23 June 2011.
- Outer East Area Committee meeting on the 05 July 2011.
- Pre application presentations to Plans Panel (East) on 14 April and 16 June 2011.
- Regular update meetings with the Principal Designate and E-ACT.
- Project Steering Group meetings with Education Leeds, E-ACT, Department for Education and Partnerships for Schools to determine the transfer to an Academy in September 2011.
- Regular meetings with Partnerships for Schools.
- Design User Group meetings with Education Leeds, E-ACT, Leeds City Council Officers and Leeds Local Education Partnership to consult on and agree strategic procurement and design issues.
- Regular reports to the Children's Services Project Board.
- Design Development meetings with Education Leeds, E-ACT (including Principle Designate Director of ICT and Head of Design & Architecture), Leeds City Council Officers, Leeds Local Education Partnership and IPSL (contractor) to consult on and agree detailed procurement and design issues.
- Regular meetings with City Development on planning, design, highways and site issues.
- Discussions with Sport England.
- Legal forums with Education Leeds, E-ACT, Leeds City Council Officers and Leeds Local Education Partnership to consult on and agree legal issues (including short term lease, development agreement, long term lease and design & build contract).

4.4.4 Further communication and consultation on the project will continue with the above groups throughout procurement and construction.

## **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

### **5.1 Constitution and legal matters**

5.1.1 On 09 March 2005, 13 October 2005 and 24 January 2007, Members of Executive Board approved the Corporate Governance arrangements for the procurement of PPP / PFI projects, Subsequent changes to these delegations means that the Director of Children's Services (or delegate) now has the powers (delegated under section 3E of the Constitution (Officer Delegation Scheme)) to award a Design and Build Contract under BSF. The procurement of E-ACT Leeds East Academy as Phase 5 of the BSF Programme will be undertaken in accordance with those arrangements,



## **5.2 Finance and Resource Implications**

- 5.2.1 The procurement is being progressed under the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by the City Council and the Leeds LEP on 03 April 2007.
- 5.2.2 In November 2010, the Government requested reductions on the BSF projects that had not yet reached Financial Close including Parklands. On 17 December 2010 the Secretary of State confirmed an agreed reduction in the funding allocation of for the proposed new E-ACT Leeds East Academy, which revised the external funding available for the scheme to £14,573,300, including ICT funding. Leeds City Council funding of £1,386,200 is also being made available. The total funding available for this scheme is therefore £15,959,500. A programme contingency fund is also held, but this will only be available for unexpected expenses where the need is justified.
- 5.2.3 There are no ongoing revenue affordability implications as a result of the new build Academy for the maintenance and upkeep of the building as the responsibility for this will transfer at the point of completion in February 2013 to the Academy Sponsor

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 A comprehensive options appraisal has been produced which recommended the construction of a New Build Roundhouse Concept School to the rear of the site. This is affordable within the budget available and has been approved by E-ACT and Children's Services.
- 6.2 Consultation has taken place with city planners, urban design and highways during design development and ward members have been regularly briefed on the progress of the project. In addition, a Public consultation has taken place at the school involving pupils, staff and residents of the community and the adjacent primary school has been consulted throughout the process.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members of the Area Committee are recommended comment on and support the proposals to build the new E-ACT Leeds East Academy on the site of Parklands Girls High School.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- a) Executive Board October 2007. Consultation Draft on the future of Academies in Leeds.
- b) Executive Board April 2010. Approval to publish a statutory notice to close Parklands Girls' High School on 31 August 2011 conditional upon DfE approval to open an academy on that site opening 01 September 2011.
- c) Executive Board October 2010. DfE approved the Expression of Interest to establish an academy to serve the Seacroft area.
- d) Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form

**Annex 1** – E-ACT Leeds East Academy Site Plans and Floor Plans

**Annex 2** – E-ACT Leeds East Academy External Views