

**Meeting of the Select Committee – 27 January 2010**

**Report of the Director of Children’s Services**

**Dudley MBC – Vision 2025 – Including Building Schools for the Future  
Submission of Readiness to Deliver Statement.**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform the Select Committee about the progress that has been made in preparing the Building Schools for the Future submission.

**Background**

2. The Local Authority is actively working on the Building Schools for the Future submission documentation in order to be ready to meet the standard and enter in to the programme fully prepared. As agreed in our 2008 submission Dudley’s documentation was ready in final draft form December 2009.
3. Township planning is at an advanced stage with Headteachers and will deliver learning pathways which will meet the needs of all pupils ensuring appropriate commissioning for all vulnerable groups. We have updated the evidence provided in November 2008 with regard to issues such as pupil place planning and school organisation in order to start to translate Vision 2025 into a realistic robust plan for the future . The Readiness to Deliver submission will be one of the key strands of Vision 2025.
4. The final Readiness to Deliver documentation builds substantially on the 9 September Cabinet report which outlined Vision 2025 and the 28 October Cabinet report Readiness to Deliver supporting statement, which have already been submitted for discussion and approval.
5. The Local Authority met with local partnerships (formerly 4Ps) at the end of September in order to undertake a skills audit of staff to ensure an appropriate team to manage the Building Schools for the Future programme could be drawn up. It was agreed to commission support where skills gaps have been identified.
6. A draft Readiness to Deliver document has been prepared and was shared with Headteachers on the 4 December; their feedback has been incorporated into a final draft.
7. As the Cabinet meeting being on 9 December the Director of Children’s Services asked for the authority for the final document to be approved for submission by the

Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Opposition Spokesperson for Children's Services. This request was approved.

8. This request had been made because the Department for Children, Schools and Families had not issued a submission date. We continued on a weekly basis to try to establish when our documentation could be formally submitted. As we were expecting to receive this information at very short notice we needed formal approval of our submission before the next Cabinet meeting in February 2010.
9. On the 23 December 2009 we received a letter from Partnerships for Schools. The letter requested we confirm our intention to submit our documentation by 15 January 2010 and our actual Readiness to Deliver documentation submission date is 29 January 2010.
10. The Director of Children's Service will ensure that further consultation takes place before the next stage of the Department for Children, Schools and Families process which will be the Remit Meeting.
11. The Department for Children, Schools and Families intervention review in December of the authority's plans for the Central Dudley Township will also be critical to the final information included in the Readiness to Deliver. Currently we have not been advised when this report will be available for discussion.
12. The deferral of the submission from December to 29 January therefore allows the Directorate to provide the Committee with a copy of the latest draft for scrutiny. The Select Committee meeting falls before the submission date.

### **Finance**

13. The initial development of the vision will be delivered within existing Directorate resources. The technical element of our BSF submission will be supported by consultancy and the costs will be funded from the income generated from the disposal of surplus school buildings.
14. The actions outlined in this paper will support the development of a radical learning plan which will be funded via current budget, grant support where available and Building Schools for the Future funding.

### **Law**

15. The provision of learning by the Council for children, adults and families falls within a range of Council functions including the Education and Children Acts and Local Government Acts.

### **Equality Impact**

16. The report takes into account the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

### **Recommendations**

17. It is recommended that:

1. Select Committee members note progress made to date on developing our Building Schools for the Future Readiness to Deliver submission.
2. Select Committee members make comment on and endorse the work that has taken place so far and support the submission.



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#### **List of Background Papers**

Cabinet Paper – 9 September 2009 – 'Vision 2025' – A strategic plan for learning  
Cabinet Paper – 28 October 2009 – Building Schools for the Future – Readiness to Deliver supporting statement.

Select Committee paper – 12 November 2009- Vision 2025