

Building Schools for the Future – response letter

Dear Councillor Maggie Hird,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 August 2008 regarding Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF)

As you're probably aware all schools with secondary age pupils are part of the BSF programme to transform secondary education with the £180m capital funding and £25m specifically for ICT. There are three categories of BSF investment across secondary schools – *new build, major refurbishment and minor refurbishment*.

There are 14 schools included in this programme with three schools likely to be completely re-built and the remaining schools likely to be refurbished or re-modelled. At this stage, only high level design options have been completed for each school, and the Council will be going through a complex procurement process to appoint a private sector bidder for BSF who will be responsible for detailed design, working closely with the Council. BSF is a complex programme, with various stages, and the preferred bidder will be appointed in July 2010.

With regard to inclusion, accessibility and the needs of disabled people, this remains a priority in BSF programme and there has been careful consideration for disabled access in the very early emerging high level design options, particularly for the phase 1 schools (Derby Moor Community School – refurbishment proposal, Noel Baker Community School and St Martins Special School – new build proposal). During the procurement process, bidders will be challenged on their detailed design proposals for these schools, and accessibility will be a key priority.

The BSF Project Board provides higher level strategic direction to the BSF programme in relation to the transformation of secondary education, and wider implications for the Council. The Board does not act as a stakeholder forum. Stakeholder consultation and engagement is undertaken in various ways with on-going meetings with Heads, governors and other stakeholders. We have been working closely with schools in their consultation and engagement processes with young people, parents and the wider community. A number of community consultation events were recently held at Derby Moor and Noel Baker schools for early consultation on options. These events were very well attended and there was a wide range of discussion, including disabled access.

The CYP Commission and City for Young People's Executive is also closely involved with the BSF programme and various progress reports have been presented to these forums. It might be useful to share these progress reports with the Disabled People's Diversity Forum if you think that would be useful.

Please be assured that accessibility and needs of disabled people will be considered very carefully in the BSF programme and investment proposals for each. As the BSF programme is quite complex with various Council and government approval stages before any detailed design work is undertaken.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards, Gurmail