

Committees Education Board	Dates 05/03/2020
Subject: City of London Academies Trust, Academies Development Programme - Update	Public
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Summary

This report is to update the board of the progress of the Academies Development Programme, academy expansion and capital builds for the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT).

The two academies co-sponsored by the City of London Corporation (CoLC) have requested to join CoLAT. Progress on this is detailed in separate report to this board.

Six academies have capital developments, with a projected total capital investment presently of circa £80m. Two of these developments have completed and four are at various stages of construction. Attached as **Appendix 1** (non-public) shows an overview of the capital build programme for academies.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the progress reported in this report.

Main Report

Background

1. Under the Academies Development Programme, the number of sole sponsored City academies has increased from two to eight since September 2016, with the date of opening listed below.

- Galleywall Primary, City of London Academy September 2016
- City of London Primary Academy Islington September 2017
- City of London Academy Highgate Hill September 2017
- City of London Academy Shoreditch Park September 2017
- City of London Academy Highbury Grove November 2017
- Newham Collegiate Sixth Form, City of London Academy January 2018

2. On the 17 May 2018 the CoLC Education Board reiterated its decision of March 2016 to limit the sponsor exposure through the expansion of the CoLAT to a maximum of 12 schools in the next few years. On 29 March 2019 the CoLAT Board approved a strategy of expansion to a maximum of 12 schools with 3 priorities,

priority 1 being CoLC co-sponsored academies joining CoLAT either through full or associate membership.

Current Position

3. Regarding academy expansion, the governing body of City of London Academy Islington (COLAI) on 2 December 2019, and the governing body of The City Academy Hackney (TCAH) on 22 January 2020, resolved to support proposals to join the CoLAT and to enter into formal discussions to that end. These proposals have the support of all co-sponsors, the Regional Schools Commissioner, and both Hackney and Islington local authorities. Progress on this is the subject of a separate report to this board.
4. With regards to academy capital builds, present projections show a circa £80m capital investment across the six schools from a variety of funding sources, notably the DfE, LB Hackney, and the LB of Islington. This figure does not include all the significant amounts associated for temporary accommodation. Attached as **Appendix 1 (non-public)** is a table showing an overview of the capital build programme for academies as well as a summary below of key dates, potential risks, and next steps.
5. **City of London Academy Galleywall**
 - a. Progress to date: Build completed August 2019.
 - b. Projected completion: Build completed August 2019
 - c. Potential risk(s): Remediation works required to UKPN substation.
 - d. Next steps: Defects period commenced
6. **City of London Primary Academy Islington (COLPAI)**
 - a. Progress to date: On track for completion in December 2020.
 - b. Projected completion December 2020
 - c. Potential risk(s): Planning conditions approval delays
 - d. Next steps: Consultation on planning conditions, and putting in place temporary accommodation arrangements for September 2020
7. **City of London Academy Highgate Hill**
 - a. Progress to date DfE Feasibility Process complete.
 - b. Projected completion April 2022
 - c. Next steps Procurement of contractor via the DfE Framework
 - d. Potential risk: Securing planning through LB Islington.
8. **City of London Academy Shoreditch Park**
 - a. Progress to date On track for completion by May 2021
 - b. Projected completion May 2021
 - c. Potential risk:
 - d. Next steps
9. **City of London Academy Highbury Grove**
 - a. Progress to date: Build completed August 2019.
 - b. Projected completion: Build completed August 2019
 - c. Potential risk(s): None identified
 - d. Next Steps: Defects period commenced.
10. **Newham Sixth Form Colligate**
 - a. Progress to date Feasibility study finalised
 - b. Next steps. Appointment of specialist architects
 - c. Projected completion December 2022/Early 2023

- d. Potential risk(s): The constraints of the Grade Two listing of the building, to achieve an outstanding learning environment, causing delays.
11. There are two areas of medium risk in the academy capital builds.
- a. For COLPAI, members will note the permanent build completion date is December 2020, requiring the CoLC to secure further temporary accommodation from September 2020. CoLC Policy and Resources Committee have approved additional funding for elements of the permanent build which officer's and members feel is essential but the DfE consider not to be necessities, as well as for temporary accommodations requirements. Regular meetings for members of relevant committees take place to keep members updated.
 - b. For NCS, Following completion of the feasibility study and the recognition that the scheme will not be able to achieve planning approval in its current form the DfE have instructed its technical advisors to appoint a more specialist architectural practice ahead of procuring a main building contractor. The DfE will attempt to complete the first phase ready for occupation by September 2022, but the complete works could well run until December 2022 or early 2023.

Implications

12. All free schools are funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and there will be no financial liability to the CoLC from the proposed transfers as the schools would become part of CoLAT, a separate legal entity to the CoLC.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. This proposal delivers on the following strategic objectives of the CoLC:
- a. to contribute to the outcomes within the CoLC's Corporate Plan to 'Promote effective progression through fulfilling education and employment', and 'to contribute to a flourishing society' as its aim;
 - b. the CoLC Education Strategy for pupils in the City family of schools to have access to transformative education, enabling to achieve their potential, flourish and thrive.
 - c. the Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan's priority objective 'Potential', which states: "People of all ages can achieve their ambitions through education, training and lifelong learning", with the outcome to be achieved by "Delivering an outstanding education offer through the City of London family of schools

Conclusion

14. TCAH and COLAI are the only two of ten academies sponsored by the City of London Corporation which are not within the City of London Academies Trust. These academies joining CoLAT would enable the benefits provided by the existing co-sponsors to be retained while also gaining the economies of scale, support and expertise the trust offers.
15. The academy development programme through the City Corporation's sponsorship of CoLAT continues to be an ambitious expansion of the City's support for education consistent with the City's commitment in its Education Strategy. These ambitions remain consistent with those of CoLAT and are being successfully progressed as noted in this report. Members will particularly note the continued challenges for the

COLPAI build, arrangements for further temporary accommodation, as well as the measures in place to keep relevant members of committees updated.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - CoLAT Capital Builds table – update March 2020 (non-public).

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