

Committees Education Board	Dates 23/05/2019
Subject: City of London Academies Trust, Academies Development Programme - Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For information
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Summary

This report is to inform the board of the progress being made on academy capital builds within the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) which falls under the Academies Development Programme. In addition, this report also informs the board of an approach made by New North Academy (NNA), an existing stand-alone primary academy in Islington, to explore joining CoLAT, and the subsequent outcome.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. 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. The Education Board meeting on 17 May 2018 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. The City as an academy sponsor has approval to open a further 6FE secondary academy in Hackney in September 2019, the City of London Academy Downs Park, but following conversations with LB Hackney a decision has been made not to proceed due to the potential impact on surrounding Hackney secondary schools. The DfE have been informed accordingly. The board in previous meetings had been informed an approach may be made by a primary school in LB Islington to join CoLAT in the future.

Current Position

3. Attached as Appendix 1 is a table showing the capital build programme for academies and a summary for each is outlined below.
4. **Galleywall Primary, City of London Academy** refurbishment was scheduled for completion by April 2019, but the academy has requested works to the ground and first floors are delayed until the summer break to reduce the impact to the school and the capital programme is now scheduled to complete by September 2019. This has resulting in circa £100k in additional costs, requiring value engineering to the programme. Given the challenges this projected has faced officers have been negotiating with the DfE for further funding and have been successful in securing a further £410k funding and seeking up to an additional £40k.
5. **City of London Primary Academy Islington** permanent site is presently scheduled for completion by quarter two 2020 following finding asbestos in the slab of the existing building on the site during demolition. In addition, further asbestos has been found under the slab and some 17th Century brickwork with may result in further delay, this is still to be established. These findings are significantly increasing costs for the build which the DfE have been informed of, and once the impact in terms of costs and delay are established, negotiations will take place for additional funding. Given the complexities of this capital build of a school and social housing, Officers hold briefing meetings with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of a number of committees to keep them updated on progress.
6. **City of London Academy Highgate Hill** new Sixth Form capital build is being delivered by the DfE and is proposed this is completed in order to admit students by September 2020. The feasibility process has been completed with four options being present for consideration. The desired option has been agreed with the DfE who are now progressing their internal process to secure the revised funding need and take forward the design to submit a planning application.
7. **City of London Academy Shoreditch Park** permanent build is being delivered by LB Hackney and is scheduled to open in September 2021. Contracts were signed in April with the build programme due to commence in May/June. Site preparation has largely concluded. LB Hackney are working with the school, architects and contractor to resolve final design issues. There is some value engineering to be done, but nothing that affects availability of space or delivery of the curriculum.
8. **The City of London Academy Highbury Grove** Sixth Form capital build is being delivered by LB Islington which consists of a refurbishment and extension of the existing Sixth Form provision. The build is scheduled for completion 30 August 2019 and is presently running with a two-week delay.
9. **Newham Sixth Form Collegiate, City of London Academy** capital build is being delivered by the DfE which involves the expansion of NCS from 600 to 800 students on the former East Ham Police Station site, the City being successful in securing the lease in the funding agreement for the academy. Initial designs presented to date have been disappointing and rejected as they would not provide the quality of learning environment students enjoy in the rest of the school, the designers being restricted by the Grade Two listing of the building.
10. In December 2018 the City of London Corporation, in its capacity as an academy sponsor, was approached by New North Academy (NNA), an existing stand-alone

primary academy in Islington, to explore joining CoLAT, the Education Board in previous meetings having been alerted that a primary school in Islington may wish to join CoLAT in the future. A stakeholder meeting was held on 22 March 2019 to discuss the request, as per the due diligence process for any expansion of the trust, with the information presented at the meeting attached as Appendix 2. Following the Stakeholder meeting the Director Academy Development reported back to NNA on the outcome. The chair of governors that NNA subsequently responded stating following correspondence with the Chairman of the Education Board in February, they were now expecting shortly to pass the formal resolution for the school to move through the process to become part of another MAT.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. All free schools are funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and there will be no financial liability to the City Corporation as the proposed schools would become part of the City of London Academies Trust, which is a charity and company limited by guarantee. However, as the Education Board can make discretionary grants, as it does to its other academies, from the central risk element of the Education Budget there will be financial implications within the agreed parameters of the increased grant funding approved this year.
12. LB Islington see the necessity in NNA joining a MAT, given the challenges stand-alone primary academies face and was supportive of the school becoming a City academy”.

Conclusion

13. The academy development programme through the City Corporation’s sponsorship of CoLAT is an ambitious expansion of the City’s support for education consistent with the City’s commitment in its Education Strategy to provide access to ‘world class’ education and learning opportunities and that “City schools” will provide outstanding education that enriches and inspires students. These ambitions remain consistent with those of CoLAT and those ambitions are being successfully progressed as noted in this report. Members will particularly note the decision to delay the build programme at Galleywall, at the request of the school, and the financial implications on the build, and the continued challenges for the COLPAI build as well as the arrangements in place to keep relevant members of committees updated.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - CoLAT capital builds table.
- Appendix 2 - New North Academy information

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