

Committees City of London Academies Trust	Dates 05/09/2019
Subject: City of London Academies Trust, Academies Development Programme - Update	Public
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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. The report also informs members of The City Academy Hackney (TCAH) wishing to explore joining the City of London Academies Trust and to begin a process of due diligence.

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.

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** practical completion occurred on 1st September with the handover to the school on 3rd September 2019. A successful 'walk around' took place on 30th August with the DfE.
 5. **City of London Primary Academy Islington** permanent site is presently scheduled for completion on 22 December 2020. The DfE have been informed of the significant increase in delays and costs with officers working with DfE colleagues to substantiate the uplift in funding requirements. Officers hold briefing meetings with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of a number of committees to keep them updated on progress. The delay in the completion of the capital builds means alternative temporary accommodation is being sought for September 2020 when COLPAI needs to leave Moreland Primary School.
 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. Present position: Full feasibility study is being undertaken incorporating surveys further to the completion of the options appraisal and the successful uplift in the project funding from £4.3m to £7.55m to enable the DfE to progress the preferred option. Next steps to undertake a planning pre-app, complete the feasibility process and go out to procurement before end of the year.
 7. **City of London Academy Shoreditch Park** permanent build is being delivered by LB Hackney and is scheduled to open in September 2021 with the school construction programme on target to complete in May 2021. The current focus is on excavating the basement and foundations. All sheet piling and remediation works are currently on programme in line with the master programme. A 'ground breaking' event is provisional schedule for 3 October 2019.
 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. Target completion date is 13th September 2019.
 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. Discussions are taking place with the DfE, Historic England, and members of Newham's planning department to try and resolve challenges caused by the restrictions of the Grade Two listing of the building to achieve an outstanding learning environment from the build.
10. With regards to The City Academy Hackney (TCAH), the chair of governors has written to the City on 14 August 2019, stating at the governing body meeting held on 10 July 2019 a resolution was passed to explore the possibility of the academy joining the City of London Academies Trust and to commence the process of due diligence. It is proposed the Governing Body will commission an independent review and due diligence process on the option of TCAH joining the CoLAT, reviewing the benefits and risks. Officers will therefore begin the City's due diligence process with the intention of reporting back to the board in the near future.

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. the DfE would not be likely to accept a structure where TCAH continues to be a co-sponsored academy under the leadership of the CoLAT. The key options, therefore, would be to remain as a co-sponsored academy, or for KPMG to cease being a sponsor and the academy formally join CoLAT as a sole sponsored academy of the City Corporation.

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 continued challenges for the COLPAI build and the need for further temporary accommodation, as well as the arrangements in place to keep relevant members of committees updated. Members will also note TCAH wishing to explore joining CoLAT, and officers will now undertake a process of due diligence.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - CoLAT capital builds table.

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