

Committee(s): Education Board	Date: 9 November 2017
Subject: City of London Academies Trust, Academies Development Programme - Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Gerald Mehrtens, Director of Academy Development	

Summary

This report is to inform Members of the progress being made with the new academies being opened by the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) under the Academies Development Programme.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note three City academies opened in September 2017, increasing the number of sole sponsored academies from three to six.
- Note the progress being made on two further two academies will be joining CoLAT by the end of the calendar year, bringing the total of sole sponsored academies to eight.
- Note the progress of the capital programmes for these academies.

Main Report

1. This report informs Members of the progress being made for the CoLAT academies scheduled to open by September 2017 under the Academies Development Programme since this was last reported to the Education Board on 14 September 2017, these schools being;
 - City of London Academy Highgate Hill (COLA Highgate Hill),
 - City of London Academy Shoreditch Park (COLA Shoreditch Park),
 - City of London Primary Academy Islington (COLPA Islington),
 - City of London Academy Highbury Grove (COLA Highbury Grove),
 - Newham Sixth Form Collegiate, City of London Academy (NCS).
2. The City of London Academy Downs Park (COLA Downs Park) is another academy which the Department for Education (DfE) has approved for opening by CoLAT by September 2019. The options for a temporary site and level of demand are being explored with the local authority, Hackney Council, the progress of which will be reviewed in November 2017.
3. For the first three academies listed at paragraph 1 above, funding agreements are in place and these successfully opened as City academies at the start of term in September 2017, bringing the number of sole

sponsored academies from three to six. Appropriate opening events for each of these academies are being explored, with the Lord Mayor opening COLA Highgate Hill at 9 am on 20 October 2017.

4. In the case of COLA Highbury Grove, the school remains a maintained school until a funding agreement is finalised, with CoLAT operating the school in the intervening period from September 2017 under a service Level Agreement (SLA) with the existing governing body, and with Clare Verga (Principal of the City of London Academy Islington Limited (a City co-sponsored academy trust) as Executive Head. The delay in entering into a funding agreement has been caused by the delay in the PFI Funders for the school providing comments on the legal documentation. A draft funding agreement has been drawn up for implementation from November 2017. While Highbury Grove remains a maintained school, and until a funding agreement is in place, the school is the responsibility of Islington Council.
5. As Highbury Grove is still a maintained school, an Ofsted Behaviour and Safeguarding Inspection took place in September 2017, following the previously failed full inspection in December 2016. The results of the September inspection showed the immediate positive impact CoLAT's involvement has had on the school, with the report stating the school's leadership has taken "swift action to establish a well-ordered environment in which pupils behave well" and as a result "both pupils and staff report that they feel safe in school." Inspectors found that pupils "behave well" on arrival and departure at school, as well as during lunchtimes, with communications between students and teachers described as "respectful". The full report is attached as **Appendix 1**.
6. In the case of NCS, this presently remains in the management of Newham Foundation until a funding agreement is signed, the delay being due to finalising the lease. The funding agreement is now expected to be in place at the beginning of the next calendar year. The governance responsibility for NCS remains with the existing management board during this period, with a shadow governing body also in place, membership of which to be approved by the CoLAT and Education Boards.
7. An overview of the capital programme for the academies is attached as **Appendix 2**. In terms of the two major capital programmes being delivered by the City, progress on the Galleywall primary refurbishment has had some performance issues with the contractor which are being addressed; and for COLPA Islington, a planning application is in progress for a determination in December 2017. A fuller report on all capital programmes will be reported to Members in January 2018.
8. 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.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Highbury Grove Safeguarding Inspection report
Appendix 2 - Academies Capital programme overview

Background papers:

Academies Development Programme Update, Education Board, 14 September 2017.