

Strategic Director's Briefing for Children's PDS, 21 November 2017

Bath Community Academy (BCA)

I reported in September that we had submitted an expression of interest to secure additional resources to support the development of a vision for the future of the BCA site, through the One Public Estate initiative (Cabinet Office/LGA). As a result of the initial expression of interest we are in to the second stage of that bidding process and await news of the outcome. Subject to the funding/capacity available, we hope to bring to panel in January a timeline and proposed process for engagement and development of a vision for the future of the site, including seeking appropriate ways to ensure wider member engagement.

Parents of the current Year 8 and 9 pupils have now been invited to express preferences for new schools for Year 9 and 10 in September 2018 and have had the opportunity to attend an open evening meeting with head teachers of other local secondary schools to understand what they can offer.

Schools landscape

The number of schools that are now academies has risen slightly to 44 out of 82 (representing 64% of pupils). There are 10 further schools that are officially 'in the pipeline' and have had 'Academy Orders' issued by the DfE. These 10 do not yet have a confirmed date for conversion, but we expect that to take place by 1 April. A further 11 schools' governing bodies have indicated that they have confirmed plans to join Multi-Academy Trusts and are likely to do so during the current academic year, taking us to 79% of schools and 84% of pupils in academies. This would leave the 3 Catholic schools and 14 other maintained schools in Bath and North East Somerset. We have been engaging with heads and chairs of governors of those schools as well as with the local Multi-Academy Trusts to share this evolving picture and some of the challenges of working together in this 'mixed economy'.

Mike Bowden

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