

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

**BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE**

**ABRAHAM DARBY ACADEMY – NEW BUILDING CANOPY COLLAPSE – 25<sup>TH</sup>  
AUGUST 2011**

The steel and timber canopy over the entrance to the new Abraham Darby Academy building, being constructed by Kier Moss Ltd, collapsed on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, injuring 5 men who were working on top of it at the time. All 5 men were discharged from hospital by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

The cause of the collapse is not known. The Health & Safety Executive (H&SE) is investigating. T&W has appointed its BSF Technical Advisor, Mott Macdonald, to carry out an investigation on its behalf, in conjunction with H&SE. Kier is carrying out its own internal reviews. The investigations are likely to take weeks, rather than days to provide their findings.

The academy has re-opened for the autumn term in its existing buildings as planned. The car park and other works being carried out on the existing school site during the summer holidays were completed on schedule.

The incident will have an affect on the overall construction programme. It was planned that the academy and primary school would open in their new buildings in January 2012. At this stage it seems unlikely that the academy will be able to open then. The primary school building was unaffected by the collapsed canopy and the situation with regard to the Leisure Centre is being assessed. No decisions have been taken but contingency plans are being developed.

**CONTRACTUAL POSITION**

T&W has a design and build, fixed price contract with Kier. The incident will not increase the contract price.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The safety of the new buildings is a key issue. Thorough checks of the design and structures are being carried out by Kier and by Mott MacDonald on behalf of T&W. The buildings will not be open to the public until they are deemed safe.

**COSTS**

Through the contract, Kier bear the cost of remedial work. However, costs incurred by T&W, such as the investigation by Mott MacDonald, will have to be borne by the Council and are unlikely to be covered by insurance. The duration of the investigation is unknown at present.

## **OTHER WORK WITH KIER**

In 2009, following a tender process for a framework contract, Kier were selected as the Council's contractor for work under the BSF programme. They were awarded the contract for the Abraham Darby Sports and Learning Community in April 2010 and the contract for works at Madeley Academy in January 2011. As part of the framework contract the Council is working with Kier to develop other BSF schemes at Dawley (for the new buildings for Phoenix School) and at Newport Girls' High School Academy Trust and Mount Gilbert Special School. Contracts have not yet been awarded for these schemes. However, if they are not awarded by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 they will not be eligible under the current framework contract and will have to be carried out under the new framework contract. This would mean they would be likely to be delayed by up to one year.

## **PROJECT APPROVAL PROCESS**

The BSF projects were all approved in principle by Cabinet at the Outline Business Case stage and again in January 2011 to acknowledge the changes in scope due to the government's savings measures introduced in November 2010. However, as each project is brought forward for development, it has to be approved by Partnerships for Schools (PfS) (Stage 0 approval) and then once the design and costs are finalised, Cabinet and PfS approval will be sought for the Final Business Case (FBC). Once these approvals are given, T&W is in a position to award the fixed price design and build contract.

## **FINANCE**

The approved Council Capital Programme includes £144.1m funding for the BSF Project covering the financial periods 2011/12 to 2016/17. The allocation was approved by Council 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.

## **EXTERNAL ADVISORS**

External legal, technical and financial advisors have been appointed to support the in-house project team. All 3 firms were appointed at an early stage of the BSF project and their contracts are due to expire shortly. New advisors' framework contracts will be put in place and it is expected that there will be significant cost savings compared with the existing arrangements.

## **PROGRAMME**

The outline programme is shown below:

<b><u>SERIAL</u></b>	<b><u>ACTIVITY</u></b>	<b><u>PLANNED DATE</u></b>
1	Award contracts for: Phoenix School; Newport Girls High School Academy Trust; Mount Gilbert Special School	December 2011
2	Open Woodlands Primary School	January 2012 (Tentative)

3	Open Abraham Darby Academy	Not known yet
4	Phoenix School Opens	September 2013
5	Ercall Wood Technology College Opens	Early 2014

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