

GBA News - December Update



Update from Colin Tenner, Victoria College Belfast GBA C2k Project Board Lead

The Strategic Outline Case for Lot 8 has now been approved by both the Department of Education and the Department of Finance. Work has commenced on the outline business case and it is hoped that this will be submitted for approval at the start of April 2019. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised in the European Journal in July 2019 and that award of contract will be achieved by January 2021.

A contract extension will be put in place with Capita to ensure service continuity up to 31 March 2021 and the business case for this is with the Department of Education for approval. The governance arrangements for the project have been changed and a Strategic and Technical Advisory Group has been established consisting of around 16 stakeholders drawn from schools and the various representative bodies (including the GBA). Two members of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) have been elected to represent the views of the STAG on the Project Board and as the GBA representative I have been able to secure one of these two positions.

Schools and the various representative bodies will have a further opportunity to comment on the final draft statement of requirements or output-based specification prior to the documents being released to bidders later in 2019.

Education Transformation Programme

GBA representatives attended an Education Transformation Programme stakeholder event along with other sectoral bodies on Tuesday, 18 December. The Transformation Programme aims to address challenges facing the education system.

The programme design is divided into 3 workstreams;

- **Increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the short term.** This workstream will look at SEN leaning journey, review of school transport, review of Common Funding Scheme and workforce planning.
- **Better educational outcomes through long term transformation.** This workstream will address transition of children aged 0 to 4 into education, transition of young people aged 14 to 19 into careers, managing schools for the future, delivering schools for the future, area planning policy and statutory assessment.
- **Improving delivery of services for schools.** The issues to be addressed in this workstream are area planning delivery, review of pupil support service, Digital Transformation Programme and the review of procurement of minor works and maintenance.

It is anticipated that there will be regular meetings with stakeholders as the Transformation Programme continues. The GBA will provide updates to

schools throughout the process.

Christmas Holidays

The GBA office will be closed from 12.30pm on Monday 24th December and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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