

PR 8441

For Immediate Release

10 June 2009

Hertfordshire Building Schools for the Future Programme

Hertfordshire County Council has moved a step closer to finding the right partner to deliver more than £1 billion of investment into Hertfordshire's secondary schools. The planned investment should transform the provision of secondary education in the county over the next 15 years.

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is set to rebuild, remodel and relocate secondary schools, special schools and education support centres across the county, beginning in Stevenage in early 2011. The programme requires the county council to form a 'Local Education Partnership' with an appropriate private sector partner. Following the council's notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, four consortia have successfully met the qualification criteria to be considered for this key role and have been invited to take part in the next stage of the decision-making process, the 'Invitation to Participate in Dialogue'. The four consortia are:

Balfour Beatty Capital Ltd

Catalyst Lend Lease

Part of: Lend Lease European Holdings Ltd

Pinnacle Schools Ltd

A subsidiary of: PFI Investors Ltd, part of the Sir Robert McAlpine Group

Vinci Education Ltd

Part of: Vinci PLC

The four bidders will now respond to HCC's ITPD by the 20th July, and a shortlist of three will be invited to continue in the dialogue process. The shortlist will be announced in early August.

Work is planned to begin on the first schools in early 2011, following the appointment of a preferred partner in the summer of 2010.

Further information about the BSF programme can be found at:
www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk

Further information about the BSF programme in Hertfordshire can be found at:

www.hertsdirect.org/scholearn/bsf

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Issued by: Nuala Milbourn on 01992 588535 www.hertsdirect.org/news