



partnerships for schools

This case study looks at Broadway School in Birmingham which was decanted as part of the city's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project to provide a speedier route to the construction of a new school.

Bovis Lend Lease is the Birmingham Local Education Partnership's (LEP) construction delivery partner and will deliver the entire BSF project.

Key project information

Local authority: Birmingham City Council

Private sector partner: Catalyst Lend Lease

BSF Wave: 2 and 5

Project cost: estimated £1.2 billion

Number of schools: 89

Financial close reached on Wave 2 in August 2009

Birmingham decant offers quicker route to new BSF school

Project Description

Birmingham City Council is in Waves 2 and 5 of the BSF programme and its project is one of the largest in the country. Construction has started on the sample schools which are due to open in March 2011. Design development is also well under way on fourteen more schools which will open in 2012.

Broadway School is one of the first to be transformed as part of Birmingham's BSF project. The new school will be located on the site of the existing building footprint and is a combination of refurbishment and extension. The site is an extremely built-up inner city area which is surrounded by residential housing. From the outset, all parties have been determined to work together to ensure minimum disruption to the day-to-day functioning of the school. The aspiration for BSF is that standards for current and future generations of students should only ever improve as a result of the programme - and this includes while construction is taking place.

Decant decision

During a rigorous planning process, it was decided that the most effective way to deliver the new Broadway School was to provide a temporary decant facility on

the playing fields while the main build is undertaken. Housing students in this facility meant that the new school could be delivered around one year earlier than if a phased approach had been used. Although temporary, it still needed to be a fully functional learning environment for students and teachers.

Preparation

In the two months lead up to starting on site, weekly and sometimes daily, design/transition meetings were held between Catalyst, its supply chain, the school and Birmingham City Council. Processes were developed around segregation of the site, working hours, security, safety, CRB clearance, design, fire strategy and the movement of pupils, furniture and equipment. Ongoing communication between all parties was crucial and all members of the supply chain were briefed on the principles of how to work in this unique environment.

Key considerations

Robust arrangements around site logistics were put in place to protect the students and the wider public. Access/egress was carefully planned and Bovis Lend Lease also worked with a local traffic management

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company to install highways, signage and routes to minimise disruption.

In addition, work on the new site coincided with the start of the school exam year so the team programmed their work around exam times, restricting noise, sectioning the site and stopping activities adjacent to the exam rooms. Noise testing on various parts of the site and equipment, including cranes and excavators, was also carried out.

To illustrate the scope of the coordination task undertaken, it is worth highlighting that the facility, comprised of a two and three storey building, including the following:

- 50 classrooms
- social learning zones
- reception area
- administration offices
- staff rooms
- six science laboratories
- design and technology rooms
- art room
- library
- sixth form common room
- fully functional kitchen and dining area serving over 450 pupils per day

Facilities

Play spaces and sports pitches have also been provided on site as well as grass sports pitches located nearby which include changing rooms, toilet facilities and necessary security measures. The decant facility has been fitted with a lift, something which the old school did not have. This has improved access and timetabling arrangements for the school's disabled students.

Indications of success

The success of Broadway School's decant can be measured not only by the responses from the teachers and students but by statistics. Ordinarily during potentially disruptive work of this kind standards at the school would be expected to go down however, the exam results this year at Broadway show significant improvements. Attendance has also increased since the move - going from 89% to 94+%.

The decant of Broadway School is a good example of the importance of placing pupil and teacher needs at the heart of the BSF programme. It graphically illustrates how all parties and stakeholders can work together to provide an effective solution to the constraints of refurbishment on a current site.

What they said

Students have commented that the decant facility is "more spacious, a good way to work and more comfortable than the old building, with all space used wisely".

Ron Skelton, headteacher of Broadway School, said: "We are delighted with our temporary accommodation and have received many positive comments from staff, parents and students. We are working hard as a school community to improve on last year's results.

The school is continuing to improve in this time of change and the new build, with the extra money from Aston Pride, will help us to deliver a truly world class school fit for the 21st century, which the students, parents and community deserve."

The following audio (in the link below) is taken from a visit TV presenter, Maggie Philbin made to the Broadway decant facility on the day of the launch of the Birmingham LEP (Local Education Partnership)

<http://audioboo.fm/boos/75830-what-s-a-decamp-school>

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The project in pictures



Work starts to prepare the site for the temporary school



A DT classroom in the temporary building



Broadway Boulevard: the headteacher's brainchild and designed by Karen Osborne of KAOS arts and built by Bovis Lend Lease

Key contact

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For more information on Birmingham City Council's BSF project, please visit: www.birminghamlep.com/