

## **Newham Special School Update (including Information requested by interested proposers) – July 2019**

Following the engagement event of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and publication of the Q&A, further information and updates are available as follows:

**1) Progress regarding proposed site.** The Council's Cabinet approved a report on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to agree heads of terms for the lease of the land at Paul Street to develop a new school. The report provides information on the new special school and associated approvals required to facilitate this. The report and the appendices can be viewed on the Council's website at the following link (agenda item 9) <https://mgov.newham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=294&MId=12557&Ver=4>

**2) Publication of assessment criteria for bid.** The Council requested further information from the DfE and has been informed that assessment criteria are being developed for local authority use. With regards to proposers the DfE has stated '...there is a guidance and criteria for potential proposer groups to view on gov.uk that supports the application form and advises the potential proposer group as to what information we would like to see in the application form'. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-free-school-applications>

**3) Update from DfE on Consultancy Firms.** The DfE is aware of number of consultancy firms offering their services to proposer groups to help submit applications. Whilst this is an option available to groups, local authorities have been requested to reinforce the message that there is no expectation for proposers to pay for consultancy services at any stage. The New Schools Network offer full support for proposer groups free of charge.

The following questions have been submitted by a potential proposer:

**4) Has a date been set for an engagement event with the parent group?**

We have been liaising with parent representatives on a possible date. It is likely that this will be in early September 2019. Once we receive confirmation from parent representatives of a date, invites will be sent by the end of July.

**5) Is there a steer on whether or not parents want the new school to offer breakfast club and after school provision?**

There have been no discussion with parents specifically on this point, however general feedback is that parents welcome such services. As travel assistance is not widely available if pupils stay on after school this can limit take-up. The query has been passed to parent representatives and we are awaiting a response, however we would encourage proposers for the purposes of the competition to adhere to the specification at this stage. We would envisage at a later stage the successful proposer to liaise with parents to ascertain whether this is a provision which would be welcome and financially viable.

**6) Is there a view on the potential for service level agreements with JFK and School 21 [neighbouring schools to Paul Street] for things like school caretaking/maintenance, school dinners, sports hall facilities etc?**

This would be for individual proposers to negotiate bilaterally.