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Press Release

Lambeth is London Leader in Building Schools for the Future

Lambeth is the first council in London to start constructing new schools as part of its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This represents a major achievement for the borough, which was one of the authorities included as part of Wave 2 funding of the national BSF programme.

Work has now begun on the site which will be home to the brand new relocated Michael Tippett Special School, designed by world famous architects Marks Barfield, creators of the London Eye. A groundbreaking ceremony, which took place on Monday 5 February to mark the beginning of construction of the Lambeth BSF programme, saw Cllr Sally Prentice - Lambeth Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Service – break the ground where the secondary school will be built.

The BSF programme in Lambeth is split into two phases. Phase 1, which includes the building of five new secondary schools is now well underway. Phase 2, which includes the renovation and refurbishment of all remaining 11 secondary schools, is in Wave 5 of the national BSF programme.

The five Phase 1 schools include two special schools, Elm Court and The Michael Tippett School; and a Pupil Referral Unit, The Park Campus. The other schools are Stockwell Park High School, which is to be rebuilt on its existing site; and a new school, promoted by Lambeth parents, The Elmgreen School, to be built in West Norwood.

"The Building Schools for the Future programme will have a positive and lasting effect on Lambeth's children for generations to come," said Cllr Sally Prentice.

"I am delighted that Lambeth will have the first parent promoters school in the country, The Elmgreen School, and that we are rebuilding Stockwell Park High School. By building new secondary schools and expanding our existing schools we can address the shortage of school places in Lambeth, creating an extra 3,000 places for 11-16 year olds. Young people will be able to study in high quality local schools instead of having to travel across London."

Phyllis Dunipace, Lambeth Children and Young People's Service Executive Director said "I am delighted that we are starting on this important programme, which will allow us to continue on the improvements of education in Lambeth. BSF will not only build or refurbish every secondary school in the borough; it will also be the catalyst to transform secondary education." She added "The BSF

programme will have a wider impact locally as it will improve community links through extended school services provision, arts and sports”

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, who attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Michael Tippett site, congratulated Lambeth on the start of their BSF delivery, and praised the dedicated efforts that have brought Apollo Education and RM Education together to deliver the construction and ICT alongside each other. In his speech at his first turf-cutting ceremony since starting as Chief Executive in November 2006, Tim emphasised how each school’s progress is adding to the ongoing success of the national BSF programme.

Notes:

Apollo Education, part of the Apollo Property Services Group has been appointed for the design and build of The Michael Tippett School and is the preferred bidder for two other relocated secondary schools; Elm Court and The Park Campus (currently known as The Park Centre).

RM has been appointed as preferred bidder for Phase 1 of the Lambeth’s Building Schools for the Future ICT contract. The RM Group is a leading provider of educational products and services to schools, colleges and universities, local government and central government education departments and agencies.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a £45bn capital investment programme and which aims to rebuild or refurbish every secondary schools in England over 15 years.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is an independent body set up the Department for Education and Skills and Partnerships UK to run the BSF programme and support local authorities with the development of their BSF programme

Phase 1 of the Lambeth BSF programme involves the relocation of three schools (The Michael Tippett School, Elm Court and The Park Campus) from a site on Elmcourt Road, West Norwood, which will be refurbished to host The Elmgreen School from 2009. The Elmgreen School will be located in a Victorian school building on Gipsy Road for its first two years from September 2007. Stockwell Park High School will be subject to on-site phased construction expected to be completed by 2010.

The Michael Tippett School is a non denominational school for pupils with special educational needs catering for up to 80 pupils aged 11 to 19. It currently operates on two sites about five miles apart in Kennington and West Norwood. The new school is due to open early in 2008.

The new Michael Tippet School was designed by local architects Marks Barfield. The school will feature an eco-friendly sedum roof, which will act as insulation in winter and will provide a natural habitat for plants and wildlife. They have designed the school to pioneer new approaches and techniques within the field of special needs education.

Picture:

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by around 70 dignitaries, including Daren Moseley, Operations Director, Apollo Education; Councillor Steve Reed, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Lambeth; Tim Byles, Chief Executive, Partnerships for Schools; Phyllis Dunipace, Executive Director for Children and Young People's Service, London Borough of Lambeth; Councillor Sally Prentice, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Service, London Borough of Lambeth.

