



Case Study - Newcastle City Council Building Schools for the Future – Phase 2

Providing Investment Management, Hard & Soft Facilities Management and Community Services at four schools

Challenge

Operation of four schools across Newcastle with a capital value of £150m – continuation of the standard of service achieved on Phase 1 and provision of a service to match some of the highest performing schools in the City.

Solution

Aura was engaged by Newcastle City Council (NCC) to provide the services on Phase 2 following the successful delivery of the Phase 1 schools. Basing the management services on the foundation built in Phase 1, we have enhanced the service by:

Continuous Improvement:

- We have created a call off construction contract which allows for large scale project works to be easily commissioned on both PFI and D&B schools.
- We have also worked with the change in status of the schools from LA Schools to Academies. Aura has managed the design and build of a number of projects at Gosforth High, Gosforth Junior High and St Mary's to extend the schools and provide new services. Aura produced a business case and a bid for ESFA funding for St Mary's which resulted in the Academy receiving £1.3m in funding for a new two storey extension to the school.
- We have worked with Gosforth Academy providing a number of bid proposals for the Academy board and the Government funding and in the last seven years we have managed the design and construction of £2.5m of adaptations to the buildings.
- We have maintained the standards in the building working with the Facilities Management Contractor and the Building Contractor. We have implemented an Interface Agreement between the FM Contractor and the Building Contractor to deal with defects and have put in place a life cycle software system with the FM contractor that generates condition reports for agreement with Aura and NCC.

With the development of the Phase 2 schools, Aura took the opportunity to set up a new business, covering Community Centre operations management called 'Communities'. The business was based on our experience of running the Great Park and is supported with a website www.walkertech.schoolbookings.co.uk and Facebook and Twitter pages. The business manages all bookings and payments for events that take place outside of school hours.

Value Added

Across all of our works we have engaged with schools and the school communities and in the last 10 years we have provided 80 apprenticeships, 380 work based placements and coordinated 35 community projects from Greening Wingrove to the Walker Together programme.

We have worked with the construction partner from the handover date through to the latent defect period – identifying any building defects or snags and coordinating the rectification with the contractor and the facilities management provider. We have worked closely with the secondary schools managing community bookings and organising community events – enhancing the image of the schools in the community and providing additional income.

Contract Information

- Client: Newcastle City Council
- Location: Gosforth Junior High, Sir Charles Parsons SEN, Walker Technology and St Mary's Secondary Schools
- Value: £8.7m per annum
- Duration: Sept 2011– Sept 2037
- Contract: PFI & D&B
- Scope of Service:
 - Health, Safety & Environmental Management,
 - Hard FM,
 - Soft FM,
 - Security,
 - Booking & Event Management Services,
 - SPV Management,
 - Life Cycle Management,
 - Performance Management,
 - Project Capital Works Service

