

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

15 September 2015

Subject: **Expansion of St Leonards CE VA Primary School – Award of Contract**

Cabinet member: **Councillor Laura Mayes - Children's Services**

Key Decision: **Yes**

Executive Summary

The Expansion of St Leonards CE VA Primary School is one of a number of essential capital investment projects supporting the Army Re-Basing Programme.

As identified in the draft Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2015-2020, demand for school places is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy and as Service families return from Germany and relocate in settlements on Salisbury Plain as part of the Army Re-Basing Programme.

Wiltshire Council Education Department has worked closely with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) through the planning process for Service Family Accommodation (SFA). In accordance with the overall Army Re-Basing strategy Wiltshire Council is planning for 1400 more school aged children and 800 more pre-school children across the Salisbury Plain Super Garrison area.

The expansion of St Leonard's is necessary to meet immediate demand for places arising from the Five Rifles Regiment returning to Bulford from Germany with their families in Summer 2016.

Planning and design work has been progressed in accordance with the agreed programme of work to deliver the additional accommodation required and approval is now required to enter into a contract with the Keir Construction.

Proposal

To approve "Award of Building Contract" through the SCAPE minor works framework to Kier Construction Limited for the expansion of Bulford St Leonards CE VA Primary School to 1.5 Forms of Entry (FE) (80 additional places)

Reason for Proposal

The approval is required to enable the Council to enter into a contract with Keir Construction to expand Bulford St Leonards CE VA Primary School by an agreed 80 places in order to ensure the Council is meeting its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. The additional spaces are required to support the Army Re-Basing Programme of work and in particular the relocation of 5th Rifles to Bulford in 2016.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director, Children's Services

Wiltshire Council

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Subject: **Expansion of St Leonards CE VA Primary School –
Award of Contract Title of Report**

Cabinet member: **Councillor Laura Mayes – Children’s Services**

Key Decision: **Yes**

Purpose of Report

1. To approve “Award of Building Contract” through the SCAPE minor works framework to Kier Construction Limited for the expansion of Bulford St Leonards CE VA Primary School to 1.5 forms of Entry (80 additional places).

Relevance to the Council’s Business Plan

2. To meet the Council’s statutory duty of school place planning and to ensure the provision of sufficient school places across Wiltshire.

Main Considerations for the Council

3. The approval is required to enable the Council to progress to the next stage of the procurement process for expanding school provision to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. As identified in the draft Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2015-2020, demand for school places is anticipated to increase as a result of demographic growth, new housing developments in accordance with the Wiltshire Core Strategy and as Service families return from Germany and relocate in settlements on Salisbury Plain as part of the Army Basing Programme.
4. The overall programme for delivering school places including the early implications of Army Re-Basing to Wiltshire schools was approved by the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee, Tuesday, 18th March, 2014.

Background

5. Wiltshire Council Education has worked closely with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) through the planning process for Service Family Accommodation (SFA). In accordance with the overall Army Basing strategy Wiltshire Council is planning for 1400 more school aged children and 800 more pre-school children across the Salisbury Plain Training area. The expansion of St Leonard’s is necessary to meet immediate demand for primary places arising from the Five Rifles

Regiment returning with their families to Bulford from Germany in Summer 2016.

6. The building works include the provision of new classrooms, a studio hall, group rooms, toilets and staff accommodation. Car parking, pedestrian access and cycle facilities will be improved to assist the implementation of the schools' travel plan.

Safeguarding Implications

7. There are no other safeguarding implications of implementing the change proposed. The services offered to children at the school will continue under one head teacher and governing body.

Public Health Implications

8. There are no public health implications of implementing the proposed change.

Corporate Procurement Implications

9. The contract for the building works described in this report will be let through the SCAPE minor works framework. The framework is one of a suite of OJEU-compliant frameworks provided by publically owned built environment specialist Scape Group. Their frameworks are used throughout the public sector to successfully procure construction projects and meet all OJEU and Public Procurement Regulations.
10. The Council's overall position is to run OJEU compliant tendering processes for build projects. Notwithstanding this, the Corporate Procurement Board approved piloting of two school builds through the SCAPE Framework earlier this year. This build was one of those approved for the pilot use of the framework. Once the build is completed, an evaluation of use of the framework will be conducted to fully understand any benefits achieved to enable consideration for the framework being a potential approved route to market for future build projects.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

11. There are no equalities implications of implementing the proposed change as the same locations and the same entitlements remain in place after the change.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

12. The environmental implications of implementing the proposed change are favourable as the new buildings will exceed current building regulations with respect to carbon reduction. Concerns about transport, traffic and travel have been and will continue to be addressed during the planning process.

Risk Assessment

13. All expansion proposals pursued, including St Leonards', are subject to rigorous value for money (VfM) procedures through the feasibility study and option appraisal process. The contract will be evaluated to establish the most economically advantageous terms to the Council. During the execution of the projects, regular progress review meetings will be held to ensure the projects are being executed to the approved budget and the timescales.
14. It is recognized, that pupil projections may either under or overestimate future numbers and become less accurate the further into the future they go. Projections are therefore kept under review as new data becomes available, including the termly pupil censuses, Army Basing censuses and live birth data.
15. There are risks arising from construction costs, as the sector is experiencing an increase. The position will be monitored throughout the procurement process. Any changes in costs will need to be addressed as necessary. The SCAPE minor works framework significantly reduces the risk of price escalation and unforeseen abnormal costs through early contractor involvement in the design process. The contract sum defines the maximum cost of the scheme. A 5% construction contingency is included for any unforeseen abnormal costs.
16. The Council has been notified that St Leonard's CE VA Primary School is to convert to academy status with effect from 1 November 2015 as part of the Salisbury Plain Multi Academy Trust and will no longer be a maintained school. The Trust is in agreement with the proposed expansion of places to meet demand arising from army re-basing and therefore this should not impact adversely on the project.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

17. If approval is not granted it would result in the council failing to meet its statutory duty to provide young people with a school place.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

18. There are established processes for managing capital projects and risks are identified and managed as part of the project management process.

Financial Implications

19. Funding for running schools (paying staff, energy costs etc) is allocated by a formula set by central government, with the biggest part of any school's funding being based on the number of pupils. In the growth period the school will benefit from the new class allowance as agreed by Schools Forum. The Council's finance team are working with the school regarding

the growth of the PAN. The funding formula will ensure that the school receives funding for the pupils at the expanded school.

20. Wiltshire Council will make available capital funding to allow the new block to be constructed and some modest adaptations to the existing site to allow the school to grow to 1.5 form of entry (315 pupils). £1.4m has been allocated to cover all the project costs, from earmarked schools basic need capital funding in the financial year 2015/16 & 2016/17. The SCAPE minor works framework significantly reduces the risk of price escalation and unforeseen abnormal costs through early contractor involvement in the design process. The contract sum defines the maximum cost of the scheme. A 5% construction contingency is included for any unforeseen abnormal costs.

Legal Implications

21. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area. They must also promote high educational standards, increased parental choice, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.
22. In regard to public law and equalities consideration, when making decisions the Council must act reasonably and rationally. It must take into account all relevant information and disregard all irrelevant information and consult those affected, taking into account their views before final decisions are made. It must also comply with its legal duties, including relating to equalities. It must also comply with its legal duties, including relating to equalities. As public bodies, schools and local authorities have duties, known as the 'public sector equalities duties' under S 149 the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 places separate duties on Local Authorities as the responsible body (alongside the governing body) for schools maintained by the local authority.
23. Consideration has been given to whether or not there are any ethical or governance issues or any Human Rights implications, and none have been identified.

Options Considered

24. Before selecting these proposals extensive reviews with school clusters groups, consultation with stakeholders and technical feasibility studies have been carried out. Options considered included not proceeding with the scheme or expanding other schools.

Conclusions

25. The proposal to expand Bulford St Leonard's CE VA Primary school provides school places closest to where children will live. Expanding St Leonard's has local support from the recent consultation and is seen as a good way forward for the community.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

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15 Sept 2015

Background Papers

None
