

**TO: EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME CONTRACTS COMMITTEE  
9 SEPTEMBER 2014**

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**OWLSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AWARD OF CONTRACT  
Director Children, Young People & Learning**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to award the contract for the construction works for the final Phase 3 of the expansion of Owlsmoor Primary School under the Education Capital Programme previously approved by the Executive.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That the contract for the construction works for Phase 3 of the expansion of Owlsmoor Primary School be awarded to Tenderer A subject to the final lump sum not exceeding the amount set out in paragraph 26 of the Restricted Appendix.**

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The value of this contract requires Executive approval under the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 A masterplan was undertaken to identify different options for the expansion of the school buildings which has been subject to consultation and agreement with the Headteacher and Governing Body.
- 4.2 Doing nothing is not an option because the Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places.

**5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

- 5.1 The expansion of Owlsmoor Primary school from 2.5FE to 3FE for a total of 630 places forms part of the Education Capital Programme approved by the Executive in October 2013 and is also set out in the school Capacity Strategy approved by the Executive in October 2012.
- 5.2 Through the School Places Plan, a shortfall of places has been identified in Crowthorne & Sandhurst, and the project to expand Owlsmoor Primary school from a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 76 to 90 has been initiated to need to meet the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places to meet rising rolls.
- 5.3 A masterplan scheme was originally developed in 2010 to raise the school to a PAN of 90, and this forms the basis of the project. The works will provide the additional classrooms, teaching and associated spaces, through a series of extensions and internal alterations to create the additional capacity required.

## Unrestricted

- 5.4 The expansion is being completed in three phases, and Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2012 and 2013 respectively. This report is in respect of the final Phase 3 works to complete the expansion to 3FE in all year groups.

### Owlsmoor Phase 3

- 5.5 The final Phase 3 works include the demolition of the existing nursery block and construction of new reception classrooms, a nursery classroom and the additional classrooms to bring the school up to three forms of entry in all year groups.
- 5.6 Pupil numbers have already justified the expansion of the school which was full to its Published Admission Number of 90 in September 2012 and is forecast to be full again to 90 for September 2014, and in the foreseeable future.

### Timescales

- 5.7 The programme for the Phase 3 Works is for a start on site in September 2014, with handover and commissioning in August 2015. The works will be completed on a phased basis, with three distinct sections of work.

### Costs and Funding

- 5.8 Initial funding for this contract has already been approved by the Executive as part of the Education Capital Programme, and is drawn from a number of sources including DfE Basic Need Grant and DfE Targeted Basic Need grant.
- 5.9 Taking account of the total funding allocated to date on schemes developing school places, in order to fully finance this contract and other costs associated with this scheme, there will need to be a commitment to use £0.710m of the 2015-16 DfE Basic Need grant which has already been confirmed at £3.477m and will be released when the Council agrees the 2015-16 capital programme in February 2015. Planned expenditure on this scheme in the current year can be managed through the cash flow within the school places programme.

## **6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The value of the works is below the OJEU threshold and the Public Contracts regulations are not engaged. Nothing further to add to this report.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications arising from this report are set out in the supporting information and attention is drawn to:
- the need to commit 2015-16 confirmed grant funding to finance this contract award, which reduces funds available for other projects, and
  - the possibility that future schemes for creating additional school places, including the new schools required from housing developments, may not be affordable from DfE grants and developer contributions and could therefore need to be financed by the Council.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 All new construction will be accessible to disabled pupils, staff and visitors.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Are set out in the attached Restricted Appendix A

**7. CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The Headteacher, Governing Body, staff, pupils, parents and neighbours of Owlsmoor Primary School.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 The Headteacher and Governors have been consulted throughout the design stage development and attended meetings and workshops. A pre-planning consultation was undertaken with staff, pupils, parents and neighbours using leaflets. An open afternoon/evening was held at the school where plans and drawings were on display and Council officers, the Headteacher and Atkins project manager and designers were available to answer questions.

Representations Received

- 7.3 The consultation confirmed the support for the expansion project, and the specific feedback and comments received from those consulted were fed back to the design team and the designs revised prior to the planning application submission.

Background Information

- 7.4 Restricted APPENDIX A
- 7.5 The Atkins Tender Report – Owlsmoor Primary School 3FE Expansion Project, Bracknell Forest Council, July 2014

Contacts for further information

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