

Division(s): Didcot West.

Hendreds & Harwell

CABINET – 20 OCTOBER 2015

Aureus Secondary School, Didcot – Capital Governance Approval

Report by Director for Environment and Economy

Introduction

1. As a consequence of Great Western Park, a new housing development in Didcot there is a need to provide a new 1,200 place secondary school.
2. The school is required by September 2017 in order to meet pupil pressures arising from the development.
3. Funding is captured within the Council's Capital Programme and is being procured using the EFA Contractors Framework with Kier Construction Ltd being appointed to design and build the school.
4. The school will be run as an Academy and GLF Academy Trust have been confirmed as the Academy Sponsor. It is essential that the council has accommodation in place to enable GLF to provide secondary school places from September 2017.
5. The Outline Business Case was approved in July 2015. The Design & Build (D&B) contract between OCC and Kier Construction Ltd is scheduled to be signed and executed on 22 October 2015 in order for the school to be ready for a September 2017 opening.
6. This report is being submitted to enable the project to contractually commit to facilitate the commencement of the project subject to planning approval (30 September 2015) and the transfer of land to OCC ownership (5 October 2015).
7. Funding to construct the secondary school will be from a combination of S106 developer contributions and funding from Oxfordshire County Council.

Except and Confidential Information

8. The Full Business Case is included as Annex 1 to the report. The financial assessment of the project, is included as Annex 2 to the report., is exempt because of the commercially sensitivity nature of its content.

The public should therefore be excluded during consideration of the annexes because its discussion in public would be likely to lead to the disclosure to members of the public present of information in the following category

prescribed by Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended):

3. *Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);*

and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that where a tender or bidding process is in progress disclosure would prejudice the position of the authority in the process of the transaction and the Council's standing generally in relation to such transactions in future, to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to discharge its fiduciary and other duties as a public authority

RECOMMENDATION

9. The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:

(a) approve the Full Business Case for the proposed Aureus Secondary School at Great Western Park, Didcot

(or)

(b) in the event that the approval of the planning application for the secondary school and the completion of the land transfer has yet to take place, delegate to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader the authority to approve the Full Business Case; and

(c) delegate to the Chief Finance Officer and Director for Environment & Economy in consultation with the Leader the authority to award the Design & Build contract.

SUE SCANE

Director for Environment & Economy

Annex 1: GWP Secondary School – Stage 2 Final Business Case

Annex 2: Financial Appraisal

Contact Officer: Mark Holmes, Programme Office Manager (Carillion), 01865 780200

Supporting Officers:

Jeff Woodall, Contract Performance Management, 07554 103353

Kevin Griffin, Service Manager - School Organisation and Planning 01865 816457

Howard Cox, Infrastructure Framework Manager, 01865 810436

September 2015