



Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services

***Wednesday, 13 March 2019 at 10.00 am
County Hall, New Road, Oxford***

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 20 March 2019 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Rees'.

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

March 2019

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 24 April 2019

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. **Declarations of Interest**
2. **Petitions and Public Address**
3. **Questions from County Councillors**

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

4. **Oxfordshire County Council's Recommended Sponsor for the New Primary School Located at Graven Hill, Bicester** (Pages 1 - 4)

Forward Plan Ref: 2018/181

Contact: Barbara Chillman, Service Manager – Pupil Place Planning

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDECS4**).

The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as this which requires a new secondary school for 2020. It was subsequently agreed in the meeting of 15 July 2014 that the final recommendation should be a decision delegated to the cabinet member responsible for Education.

This process has been followed and has now reached the point where a preferred provider has been identified from a group of 4 short-listed bidders which were assessed against criteria.

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the recommended provider which will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for a final decision. However, the Department for Education has directed that the recommendation must not be made public, therefore this has to be kept confidential.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services is RECOMMENDED to approve the preferred provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

Division(s): Bicester

CABINET MEMBER – 13 MARCH 2019

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR GRAVEN HILL, BICESTER: REPORT ON SELECTION PROCESS FOR APPROVED PROVIDERS AND APPROVAL OF PREFERRED OPTION

Report by Director for Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to approve the preferred provider to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for final agreement.

Executive Summary

1. The Cabinet meeting of 4 September 2012 approved a process for the identification of sponsors for new academies to meet the needs of population growth such as the one at Graven Hill, Bicester. This was amended in the Cabinet meeting of 15th July 2014 to give the decision to the Cabinet member unless there are special circumstances. There are no special circumstances in this case.
2. The approved specification for Graven Hill, Bicester sought providers for a new primary school. The school will be initially a 2-form entry, 2-11 age range primary school, with an Admission Number of 60, but has potential to expand to up to 3 form entry.
3. The specification did not impose restrictions on the nature of provider – e.g. faith organisations, or existing providers – given that the local consultation was inconclusive on these issues.

Exempt Information

4. The Department for Education has instructed that any recommendation should not be made public until the Secretary of State has made a final decision on this matter.

Background

5. The agreed process has now completed the following stages:

- a. Assess expressions of interest and then invite detailed bids from short-listed providers to show clear plans of how they will contribute to the raising of education standards, add diversity of choice and which best fits the local requirements and meets the needs of those within groups offered specific protection under s149 Equality Act 2010.
 - b. Assess bids against criteria and rank in order of preference. Agree a preferred option to be approved by Lead Member responsible for Education.
6. Eight expressions of interest were received. A scoring system was used to assess the applications. These were assessed and scored according to criteria derived from the Department for Education (DfE) Free School Presumption advice February 2016 and from the council's specification document for the new school at Graven Hill, Bicester previously agreed by the Cabinet Member.
7. The county council's standard practice is to short-list up to three providers, however four applicants were invited to submit detailed bids, given the close scores following the initial assessment. The four short-listed providers were also asked to make a presentation to a panel consisting of officers and the Cabinet member for Education & Cultural Services. Both parts of the detailed application were then scored against specified criteria, considering information provided by the DfE about each's trust's current performance.
8. The shortlisted providers were:
 - a. The Warriner MAT: The Warriner MAT was set up in 2015 and currently has one secondary and five primary schools in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. They are also in the process of moving into Warwickshire.
 - b. Kingsbridge Educational Trust: Kingsbridge Education Trust operates four schools in Milton Keynes. One of these is a new all-through school which opened in September 2018.
 - c. Bourton Meadow Education Trust: Bourton Meadow Education Trust was established in 2015 with three primary schools located in Buckingham. In September 2018 two primary schools in Northampton joined the trust.
 - d. GEMS Learning Trust: GEMS Learning Trust was established in September 2015 with the opening of their first primary academy in Twickenham. There is one Oxfordshire school run by GEMS which opened in Didcot in September 2016. Their third school is due to open at Kingston, in 2019.
9. Based on the applications and presentations, a preferred sponsor has been identified. As the Department for Education requires that this be confidential until the Secretary of State has confirmed the approved sponsor, the preferred sponsor will be reported verbally at the meeting.

Financial and Staff Implications

10. There are none arising directly from this report. However, once an approved sponsor has been confirmed by the Secretary of State there will be a need for significant and on-going liaison with council officers.

LUCY BUTLER

Director for Children's Services

Contact Officer: Barbara Chillman, Pupil Place Planning Manager (07554103418)

February 2019

This page is intentionally left blank