

## **Divisions Affected – Bloxham and Easington**

### **CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**19 DECEMBER 2023**

### **Bloxham CE Primary School Hall Construction Contract**

#### **Report by Executive Director for Resources**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to**
  - a) approve the construction of a new school hall and associated refurbishment works at Bloxham Church of England Primary School.
  - b) approve the contract award to E W Beard Ltd for the construction works.
  - c) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer to complete all necessary legal documentation to give effect to this contract award.

### **Executive Summary**

2. Bloxham CE Primary School has grown to its current capacity of 2FE (AN 60) over several years. Capital investment has secured sufficient classroom spaces to support this expansion. The final phase of expanding the school is to address deficiencies in the core accommodation which are now inadequate for a 2FE primary school, in particular the school hall and catering facilities which are below DfE and OCC recommended minimum areas.
3. The Initial Business Case for Bloxham Church of England Primary School Hall with a project value of £1.375m was approved on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and the project entered the capital programme. This will have been previously included in the Capital Monitoring Report to Cabinet as it was over £1m.
4. Following the project entering the capital programme, E W Beard Ltd were competitively procured via the Pagabo Dynamic Purchase System Small Works Framework. Six contractors compliantly responded to the tender with E W Beard Ltd being the successful bidder following a qualitative and commercial evaluation.
5. E W Beard Ltd were appointed under a Pre-Construction Services Agreement for the design work in March 2022. The contractor and their design team have now developed the proposals to RIBA 4 detailed design, and it is ready for construction.

6. The work undertaken during the project development has demonstrated that the project cost is higher than reported in the Initial Business Case. The project budget increases have been reported in the Outline Business Case and Final Business Case with the total project cost now being £2.866m. The Full Business Case with increased project cost has been approved by the Strategic Capital Board on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
7. The Council now seeks to enter into a JCT Design and Build contract with E W Beard Ltd for the construction works at Bloxham Church of England Primary School at a value of £2.320m. This would be undertaken as a direct award which would be compliant with the original Pagabo framework referred to in paragraph 4 above.

## **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

8. This proposed course of action supports the Council's statutory duty to provide basic need pupil places required due to population growth. Despite the classroom accommodation being provided at Bloxham Church of England School via previous capital works, the core accommodation to support the pupil places is insufficient according to Department for Education and Oxfordshire County Council standards.

## **Financial Implications**

9. The capital funding for this project has been approved as part of the capital programme, with the most recent project budget being approved as part of a Full Business Case by Property Programme Board in November 2023 and Strategic Capital Board in December 2023. The project is funded from S106 agreements and the Basic Need Contingency programme funding.

Comments checked by:

Bick Nguyen-McBride

Assistant Finance Business Partner

Email: [Bick.Nguyen-McBride@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Bick.Nguyen-McBride@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Legal Implications**

10. As a key decision, this is required to enable the project to proceed and to comply with the Council's legal and constitutional requirements. The decision will enable legal services to enter into the relevant contractual documentation on behalf of the Council.

Comments checked by:

Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
(paul.grant@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Staff Implications

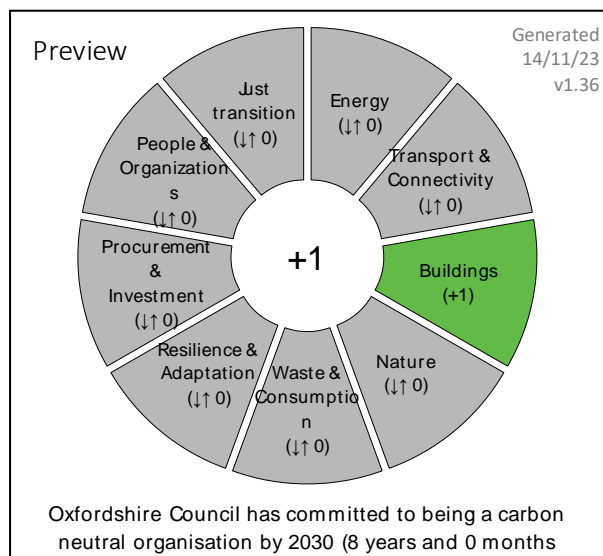
11. The project budget includes allowance for internal staff costs for a Project Lead in the Major Projects team to ensure the project is delivered to the required standards within the project programme and budget agreed in the Full Business Case.

## Equality & Inclusion Implications

12. The project does not have any equality and inclusion implications with no change to current operations.

## Sustainability Implications

13. The project has limited scope regarding sustainability implications. Re-use and refurbishment of the existing school building have been used wherever possible to meet the project objectives and to reduce embodied carbon in the proposal. A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed for the project.



## Risk Management

14. Project risks including any impacts to the Council's statutory duty to provide basic need pupil places required due to population growth and budget management has been monitored and managed by the Project Lead.

## Consultations

15. The proposal received full planning permission on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
16. Bloxham Church of England Primary School Business Manager and Headteacher have been consulted regarding the proposed changes.
17. No further public consultation has been undertaken.

### **Lorna Baxter**

Executive Director for Resources

Annex: None

Background papers: [CAB180723 R8 Capital Programme Update Monitoring Report - May 23.pdf](#)  
(paragraph 59)

Contact Officer: Jade Piper, Project Lead  
Email: [jade.piper@pxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jade.piper@pxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Liz Clutterbrook, Head of Major Projects  
Email: [liz.clutterbrook@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liz.clutterbrook@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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