



***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children,
Education & Families***

***Monday, 5 September 2016 at 12.00 pm
Meeting Room 1, County Hall, 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 Tuesday 13 September 2016 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 black ink that reads "Peter G. Clark".

Peter G. Clark
County Director

August 2016

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; EMail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 10 October 2016

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. 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.

3. Petitions and Public Address

4. Exempt Item

In the event that any Member or Officer wishes to discuss the information set out in the Annex to Item 5, the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families will be invited to resolve to exclude the public for the consideration of that Annex by passing a resolution in relation to that item in the following terms:

"that the public be excluded during the consideration of the Annex since it is likely that if they were present during that discussion there would be a disclosure of "confidential" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below the item in the Agenda".

NOTE: The report does not contain confidential information and is available to the public. The confidential information is contained in the confidential annex.

THE ANNEX TO THE ITEM NAMED HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS 'CONFIDENTIAL' BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THEM.

THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE CONTENTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHERS AND NO COPIES SHOULD BE MADE.

5. Recommended Sponsor for New Secondary School in South West Bicester (Pages 1 - 6)

Forward Plan Ref: 2016/062

Contact: Diane Cameron, School Organisation Officer Tel: 07795 301254

Report by Director for Children's Services (**CMDCEF5**).

The information contained in the annex is confidential in that the Department for Education has directed that the outcome must not be made public, therefore this is contained in a confidential annex.

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 2019. It was subsequently agreed in the meeting of 15 July 2014 that the final recommendation should be a decision delegated to the cabinet member for Children, Education & Families

This process has been followed and has now reached the point where a preferred provider has been identified from a group of 2 short-listed bidders which were assessed against criteria.

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the recommended provider, as detailed in the confidential annex, which will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education for a final decision.

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Division(s): Bicester West

Also: Bicester North, Bicester Town

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN EDUCATION AND FAMILIES – 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

New School for SW Bicester: report on selection process for approved providers and approval of Preferred Option

Report by Director for Childrens' Services

Introduction

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 SW Bicester. This was amended in the Cabinet meeting of 15 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 SW Bicester sought providers for a new secondary school. The school will be a 600 places 11-16 age range secondary school, with an Admission Number of 120 when it is at full size.
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.
4. The specification proposed that the school has a particular focus on sports, health and wellbeing, both for its own pupils and also shared with the wider community.
5. The specification includes 8 places reserved for specialist resourced SEN provision, primarily for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and the providers were invited to identify how they would work with the county council to deliver this provision.

Exempt Information

6. 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. Where disclosure of information is forbidden by a government department or a court order the authority has no choice but to exclude the public

Background

7. The agreed process has now completed the following stages:
 - a. Assess expressions of interest and then invite detailed bids from three or fewer 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 for Children, Education and Families.
8. Six expressions of interest were received. These were assessed according to criteria derived from the Department for Education (DfE) Academy / Free school presumption paper February 2014 and also from the council's specification document for SW Bicester previously agreed by Cabinet. A scoring system was used to assess the strongest applications. Five applications were received and this was shortlisted to three but one of these subsequently withdrew.
9. The shortlisted providers were:
 - a. **The Cheney School Academy Trust.** Cheney School has been judged Good by Ofsted in its last 2 inspections. It has sponsored Bayards Hill Primary School in Oxford and is also the sponsor for the new primary school to be built in Barton, Oxford.
 - b. **The White Horse Federation.** This organisation originated from a group of outstanding schools in Swindon. It currently has 12 schools across Swindon and Wiltshire and one in Oxfordshire. The group contains primary, secondary and special schools. It opened a new primary school in 2012. It has established a strong record of improvement in all of its schools. Those which were failing have rapidly improved to good and several are outstanding.
10. The shortlisted providers were asked to complete a more detailed application form and make a presentation to a panel consisting of officers and the Cabinet member for Children Education and Families. Representatives from Cherwell District Council were also invited to be present. The providers were again scored against specified criteria.

Financial and Staff Implications

11. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is submitted in Annex 1 as confidential information.

JIM LEIVERS

Director for Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Charlotte Christie, Academies and Collaborations Co-ordinator
07917 093535

September 2016

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