

THE EXECUTIVE
MEETING, 12TH JANUARY, 2009

Councillor Morris	Leader of the Council – Strategy and External Relationships
Councillor J. Byrne	Development
Councillor Sherrington	Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Mrs Thomas	Corporate Resources
Councillor Kay	Human Resources and Diversity
Councillor Adia	Development
Councillor Ibrahim	Culture, Young People and Sport
Councillor Peel	Environmental Services
Councillor Murray	Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Zaman	Housing and Regeneration

Non-Voting Members

Councillor Hornby	
Councillor Spencer	
Councillor R. Allen	
Councillor Shaw	
Councillor J. Walsh	
Councillor Hall	Deputy for Councillor Mrs Brierley
Councillor Hollick	Deputy for Councillor Morgan
Councillor Hayes	
Councillor Mrs Ronson	
Councillor D. A Wilkinson	

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources

Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director Building Schools for the Future
Mrs. M. Stoney	Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs. Brierley and Morgan.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 16th December, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

63. BRIGHTMET AND ESSA ACADEMY AND FIRWOOD SCHOOL : OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FOR PROCUREMENT

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report that requested the Executive's approval for the outline Business Case (obc) for the procurement of the development of the Essa Academy and the all through Academy at Brightmet, together with the Firwood Special School.

The key information for consideration by the Executive was the affordability position for both schemes. The report provided details of the Funding Allocation Model and funding envelop for both schemes, as well as the procurement process and the programme for delivery of both schools, including the Firwood School.

The OBC document outlined the options appraisal, cost estimates, affordability assessment and procurement strategy

for the Academy scheme in sufficient detail to allow capital funding to be confirmed and to gain approval to proceed with the delivery of the school via the PfS National Framework.

PfS had allocated £18,221,386 funding to the Essa Academy for a rebuild and partial refurbishment of the existing site. The 11-19 elements of the Brightmet Academy were being funded through PfS Academies funding, however the nursery and primary provision was being funded by the Local Authority using Primary Capital and other capital funding. Funding for the new Firwood provision was being provided as a one off project through wave 7 Building Schools for the Future funding. The scheme had been allocated funding for a 100% new build scheme.

The Local Authority was required to submit a Section.151 officer letter with each Academy OBC confirming the affordability of the scheme and the Council's commitment to delivering the schemes within the affordability envelope identified .

The proposed funding for the Primary element was based on the same model for the Secondary and Special Schools and the precise allocation against budget heads was being worked up as part of the OBC. The total for the project was therefore £36,388,360.

The Preliminary Invitation to Tender (PITT) process was started once the OBC was signed off by the DCSF. The PITT tender period would last for approximately three weeks, followed by approximately 1 week for tenders to be evaluated. Two contractors from the PfS Framework were then selected to take part in a mini-competition.

A timetable of key dates for the procurement of the sample school was included at Appendix 2 and it was expected that the ITT clarification meetings would begin on a fortnightly basis from Tuesday 14th April 2009.

Once the Core Evaluation Board had concluded its assessment of the ITT submissions, a report would be produced for

approval by the Executive and the Academy Project Groups in September 2009. The Preferred Bidder would be announced by the Council on or around 15th September 2009.

In respect of the Essa Academy, and using the approvals received from the Executive on 26th July, 2008, a short term lease and a letter committing to the endowment fund was agreed as part of the negotiations with DCSF.

The suggested land to be included in the long term lease was delineated at appendix 5 and members noted that the area of land equated to approximately 9 hectares which was that required for the development of the new buildings. The exact line of the land to be transferred would depend upon the final design of the building and the receipt of planning and other approvals.

The residual land would be disposed of when market conditions permitted and the ensuing capital receipt used to support the BSF programme as was required by legislation. Members noted that normally only the first £300,000 would be paid to the Council with the remainder to be divided 50-50 with Partnership for Schools (PfS). However, on this occasion PfS had agreed to forego their full eligibility to allow the Council to offset the purchase of the former 6th Form building.

In respect of Brightmet the potential short term and long term leases were included in appendices 6 and 7. The short term lease would largely comprise the areas currently occupied by Withins and Top o th Brow. However, work was currently ongoing to agree the exact requirements of the Academy and Firwood in the long term and again the exact line may change as design progressed.

The Assistant Director explained that any future highways and site access issues would be outside the current funding agreement and would be paid for by the Council.

Resolved - (i) That the funding allocations and source of funding for the development of the two Academies and Firwood as one project be agreed and that the Director of

Corporate Resources be authorised to submit a Section 151 letter on behalf of the Council.

(ii) That the procurement process and timetable for the delivery of the Academies and Firwood be noted.

(iii) That approval in principle be given for the long term lease in respect of Essa and the short and long term leases in respect of Brightmet Academy and Firwood School and the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to agree the final position.

(iv) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete all documents and Legal requirements.