

Award of contract for the construction of an extension to accommodate the expansion of Discovery Primary School

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University

August 2014

Deadline date: August 2014

Cabinet portfolio holders:	<i>Cllr Holdich, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</i>
Responsible Director:	<i>John Harrison, Executive Director of Resources</i>
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : Yes Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : KEY/21MAR/01
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member, in consultation with Cllr Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources, the Executive Director of Resources and Head of Legal Services, is requested to :

1. Authorise the construction of an extension to accommodate the expansion of Discovery Primary School which will also include funding for Information and Communications Technology (ICT), all site surveys and project management and technical advisers fees, subject to consent being obtained pursuant to S77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1988.
2. Authorise the Executive Director of Resources to award the construction contract within the approved budget to the contractor representing the best value for money following a tender process.

Cllr Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources, comments that he is in agreement with the proposal.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member's approval to the recommendations to enable Discovery Primary School to complete the expansion from two forms of entry (60 pupils per year group) to three forms of entry (90 pupils per year group).
- 1.2 The new extension will consist of three additional classrooms plus associated facilities to accommodate pupils in Key Stage 2.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information and seek the Cabinet Member's approval in relation to the recommendations.
- 2.2 This decision is proposed in accordance with the delegations for the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.8 (a) of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of his portfolio at paragraph 3.8 (b).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 The Council has commissioned Amey to develop a proposal for an extension scheme to be designed by Amey and procured via the Council's Contract Rules. This proposal was discussed by the Children Services Capital Projects Board on 3 October 2013.
- 4.2 A budget of £800,000 has been set for the works. The funding is allocated in 2014-15 from basic need Capital within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2013/14 – 2016/17). This budget will cover: the cost of the building contract; design, project management, technical advisers and survey fees; loose and fitted furniture; ICT.
- 4.3 Discovery Primary School increased its admission number to 90 with effect from September 2011 under the first phase of this expansion scheme. This was authorised by a decision notice, reference KEY/03APR/11 which provided two additional reception classes, an atrium to bring together the Infant and Junior parts of the school, some refurbishment and remodelling and the installation of a biomass boiler and renewal of pipework and heat emitters. The first phase provided sufficient extra capacity in Key Stage 1. One additional room will be used as a classroom for Year 3 from September 2014. The second phase of the expansion is required to be open by September 2015 as the increased cohort will then move into Year 4.
- 4.4 The planning application for the school was submitted on 30 May 2014.
- 4.5 The proposed scheme will provide three additional classrooms and an access corridor and increase the number of toilets available for Key Stage 2 pupils. The new classrooms will provide the fourth side to a semi-enclosed courtyard, thereby creating a sheltered space suitable for learning and play.
- 4.6 The derelict swimming pool and changing room on the school site will be removed. By agreement with the neighbouring Voyager Academy the boundary of Discovery Primary School will be relocated to increase the amount of parking available on site.
- 4.7 The contract will be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules and once this process is complete a tender report will be compiled detailing the process and the outcome of the procurement exercise. The report will be sent to the Executive Director of Resources to approve the award of contract to the successful bidder.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Governing Body, headteacher and staff of Discovery Primary School have been fully involved in the development of the specification and design for the expansion.
- 5.2 Information on the proposed scheme was posted on the Peterborough City Council and Discovery Primary School websites on 17 March 2014.

- 5.3 A public exhibition was held on 2 – 3 April 2014 at the school where the designs for the expansion were on display for the public, parents, pupils and staff. No comments have been submitted. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, the Ward Councillors and local community were invited to the exhibition.
- 5.4 Key stakeholder departments within the Council are fully briefed on the proposals. These include the Planning Department, Strategic Finance and Legal Services.
- 5.5 The extension is being built on an existing tarmacked area and parking is being relocated, therefore consent is required from the Department for Education pursuant to section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The application was submitted on 11 May 2014.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Approval to award the construction contract to the bidder representing the best value for money following a tender process to be conducted by Amey acting on behalf of Peterborough City Council.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide school places. There are significant pressures across the city, currently these pressures are particularly severe for the younger age groups and will increase year on year as pupils move through the education system.
- 7.2 The first phase of the extension at Discovery was completed in 2012. This included provision of two new reception classrooms, covering the central courtyard with a glass roof to create an atrium, extensive remodelling of existing rooms, including the offices and staffroom and a new biomass boiler. These works provided sufficient capacity to expand Key Stage 1 to three forms of entry and completed the process of bringing together the former Walton Infant and Junior Schools that became Discovery Primary School in September 2007.
- 7.3 Discovery is a popular and successful school and was rated as good at the most recent Ofsted inspection in March 2014. It currently has an admission number of 90 but can accommodate only 540 pupils. Cohorts of 90 have been admitted since September 2011. The proposed works will enable these larger cohorts to progress through the school into Key Stage 2.
- 7.4 Demographic forecasts show that Discovery is likely to fill to its increased capacity. There is increasing pressure on school places across the city from the rising birth rate, families moving into existing housing and new builds. Sites for 177 dwellings have been identified in the Discovery catchment area.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options were considered and rejected:

- 8.1 Not to carry out the works. This option was rejected because the pupils who will require the additional classrooms are already in school in Key Stage 1.
- 8.2 To expand another primary school in the area. This option was rejected for the same reason as the additional capacity needs to be at the school the pupils are already attending.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and financial implications of this Cabinet Member Decision Notice are set out in the main body of the report.

- 9.2 Legal and Procurement – works will be procured through a tendering process in accordance with Peterborough City Council contract rules. The Council’s legal powers in respect of these proposals are set out in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, section 14 of the Education Act 1886, section 22 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable investment in certain educational services and facilities.
- 9.3 Environmental - The specification for the works in the new build will include a sustainable approach to ensure that the building envelope exceeds current building regulations in terms of air quality, air tightness and energy efficiency. It will also incorporate renewable technologies to achieve the 10% improvement in Part L2A Buildings Regulations.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

School Organisation Plan 2013-2017.