

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to: **CABINET**

Report of: **Interim Corporate Director for Children and Young People**

Date of Decision: **24th October 2017**

SUBJECT: **PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AND ASSOCIATED REFURBISHMENT WORKS AT KINGS CENTRE – PART OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS (COBS) – FULL BUSINESS CASE AND CONTRACT AWARD**

Key Decision: **Yes** **Relevant Forward Plan Ref:** **003671/2017** ☐

If not in the Forward Plan: **Chief Executive approved**
(please "X" box) **O&S Chair approved** ☐

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) **Councillor Brigid Jones – Cabinet Member - Children, Families and Schools**
Councillor Majid Mahmood – Cabinet Member - Value for Money and Efficiency

Relevant O&S Chair: **Cllr Susan Barnett – Schools, Children and Families**
Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq – Corporate Resources and Governance

Wards affected: **Stockland Green**

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To inform members of the Full Business Case for the proposed provision of additional accommodation at the Kings Centre for twenty five pupils who will be relocated from Bridge Centre to the Kings Centre. These works together with associated refurbishment works including the replacement of the heating distribution system are estimated to cost £2,350,000. Kings Centre is part of The City of Birmingham Schools (COBS) which is a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The project is funded from a combination of Basic Need and School Condition Allocation grants.
- 1.2 The private report contains commercially confidential information and seeks approval of the Full Business Case and to place orders with the preferred contractor.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

That Cabinet

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

Lead Contact Officer(s): Jaswinder Didially - Head of Education Infrastructure
Zahid Mahmood - Capital Projects Lead Officer

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3. Consultation:

3.1 Internal

The Interim Leader, Ward Councillors for Stockland Green and the Executive Member for Erdington District have been consulted in relation to the proposals and no adverse comments have been received. Officers from City Finance, Legal & Governance and Procurement have been involved in the preparation of this report.

3.2 External

The Head Teacher and School Governing Body have been involved and informed fully about the proposal. Feedback has been favourable and there have been no negative responses. Parents of the pupils being relocated were also consulted and there have been no adverse responses.

4. Compliance Issues:

4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

- 4.1.1 These works will enable the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty to provide pupil places and to meet the Local Authority's landlord responsibility to maintain the Education property portfolio and planning & securing the provision of school places (Section 14 Education Act 1996 and Education & Inspections Act 2006). The works are required to enable the school to remain operational, increasing the life of the buildings to mitigate the risk of school closure and asset failure, thereby improving the efficiency and management of the school and improving safeguarding of children. The spending priorities proposed are in accordance with the Education Development Plan and Schools' Capital Programme 2017-18. Works will contribute to the Councils Vision & Forward Plan, particularly 'a great city to grow up in and make the best use of our unique demography and create a safe and secure city for our children to learn and grow in'
- 4.1.2 Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility (BBC4SR) The Constructing West Midlands (CWM) contractors are certified signatories to (BBC4SR) and, prior to the works order being placed additional actions proportionate to the value of this contract , will be agreed with the preferred contractor and included in their action plan.. These actions will be implemented and monitored during the contract period

4.2 Financial Implications

(How will decisions be carried out within existing finances and Resources?)

- 4.2.1 The current estimated capital cost for providing additional accommodation together with the repair and replacement of time and condition expired assets at Kings Centre (COBS/PRU) is £2,350,000 and will be funded from the Basic Need Grant and School Condition Allocation. A full breakdown of the costs is detailed in the appendix to the Private Report.
- 4.2.2 Consequential revenue costs including additional staffing and any ongoing day to day repair and maintenance of the assets are the responsibility of the school and will be funded from their delegated school budget.
- 4.2.3 Once relocation to the Kings Centre has been completed, the Bridge Centre will be declared surplus to requirement.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 This report exercises legal powers which are contained within Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 and Section 22 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by which the authority has a responsibility to provide places and maintain schools - this includes expenses relating to premises.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty (see separate guidance note)

- 4.4.1 A Full Equality Analysis (EA0001202) was carried out in May 2016 for Education and Skills Infrastructure's Education Development Plan and Schools' Capital Programme 2017–2018. The outcomes from consultation demonstrate that proposed capital developments support positive outcomes for children, young people, their families and carers. No negative impact on people with Protected Characteristics was identified. It was concluded that sufficiency of educational places and opportunities for all children and young people contributes to providing positive life chances, and supports a positive approach to Safeguarding in Birmingham: actively reducing the number of children and young people out of school helps to mitigate risk to their safety and wellbeing.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 Kings Centre is part of the City of Birmingham School (COBS) group of schools and is a P.R.U, located in the Erdington area of the city.
- 5.2 Following the vacation of part of the Kings Centre building by Access to Education it is the City of Birmingham School's intention to occupy this area which will assist in meeting their strategic objectives to rationalise and consolidate its estate, relocating staff and pupils (approximately 25 pupils) from the Bridge Centre, increasing the pupil numbers at Kings Centre current establishment of 40 students and reduce COBS repair and maintenance costs with regards to their estate. EdI arranged for an approved surveyor to visit the school in December 2016 after the Access to Education team relocated to other premises. The subsequent report indicated that extensive repairs are required to both the internal and external fabric, which if not addressed could result in COBS not achieving its strategic objective of reducing its property portfolio. The programme of

works includes the replacement or refurbishment of the Kings Centre roof, structural works, refurbishment of windows, 'making good' internal wall and ceilings within the vacated area, upgrade of lighting in the vacated area and extend data cabling. If the roof does need replacing and the cost cannot be contained within the approved budget a further report will be presented to the relevant decision maker.

- 5.3 As part of the project the school is having the heating distribution system replaced. To reduce disruption to teaching and learning this work will, therefore, be undertaken during the Summer Holiday 2018.
- 5.4 The procurement route for delivery of this scheme is a direct allocation under the Constructing West Midlands (CWM) Framework Lot 7 in accordance with the framework protocol. Further details are included in the private report. The selected construction partner will work with Acivico who are acting as Project Manager. The project team, in close consultation with the client, has discussed and agreed arrangements in order to ensure absolute health and safety provisions are in place and disruption is minimised. These arrangements have been agreed by Acivico's Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Co-ordinator. All parties are also committed to ensuring that the educational outcomes for the children will not be adversely affected whilst the construction work is in progress.
- 5.5 Following approval of this report an order will be placed with the selected contractor, with works commencing in January 2018 and completed by August 2018, which will ensure that the refurbished area is available for the Autumn term of 2018.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 The option of not providing replacement places would result in the City Council failing to meet its statutory obligations in providing sufficient and appropriate places and an increased risk of school closure from asset failure, also it would negatively impact on teaching, pupil and staff wellbeing

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

- 7.1 To ensure that the City Council is able to continue to meet its statutory duty to provide all pupils of compulsory school age living in the City of Birmingham with a school place.

Signatures

Date

Cabinet Member Children,
Families and Schools:
Cllr Brigid Jones

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Cabinet Member,
Value for Money and Efficiency:
Cllr Majid Mahmood

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Interim Corporate Director for
Children & Young People:
Colin Diamond

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List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

1. Relevant Officer's file(s).
2. Schools Capital Programme 2017-2018 - Cabinet Report 18th April 2017.

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

- A. FBC Document
- B. Risk Assessment
- C. Stakeholder Analysis
- D. Milestone Dates and Resources
- E. Consultation with Ward Councillors for Stockland Green/Executive Member for Erdington District