

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DECISION – BETWEEN 20 JANUARY AND 07 FEBRUARY 2020

BOSTON JOHN FIELDING SPECIAL SCHOOL CAPITAL APPRAISAL

STATEMENT FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On 17 January 2020, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee considered this report and supported the recommendations to the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources and Communications).

The Committee recommended that the Leader of the Council receives additional information and assurance, which was presented verbally at the Committee meeting, regarding the costs and value for money of the new build scheme before he makes his decision.

The following points were confirmed by the Committee's consideration:

- A major benefit of using the SCAPE National Framework over the usual tendering process was that it enabled earlier involvement of the contractor with the school. Each project was individually assessed as to whether to go out to tender or to use the Framework, and in this case the Framework was assessed as the best way forward to allow for early involvement due to the complexity of the project.
- The £13.2M cost was built up from individually tendered work packages by Wates Construction. Each package would receive three tenders which provided confidence that value for money for the scheme would be achieved.
- The design was efficient and future proof, and provided what the school and children required.
- The new build was particularly complex as it involved a special school which required modifications such as for wheelchair access, an academy trust, and a complex build on a current school site which was on a flood plain. The Budget included £1.6M for abnormal items such as flood risk mitigation and a hydrotherapy pool.
- There was a £713,500 risk budget for the scheme which was already built into the £13.2M budget.
- This would be the only new build funded through the overall budget for the Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy.
- The scheme would not be carbon neutral due to the costs involved, but would aim to reduce carbon. The Council was working towards a science based approach to measuring the carbon impact of future projects.
- A breakdown of the full costs for the new build scheme was available.