

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL  
DECISION**



DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES  
WITH ADVICE FROM: SECTION 151 OFFICER  
DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE SERVICES

**DECISION NO: CSD 32 2019/2020**

**SUBJECT:** AWARD OF PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE NEW SEN BAYTREE SECOND SCHOOL SITE IN CLEVEDON

**KEY DECISION: YES**

**BACKGROUND:**

The current Education Provision in North Somerset – A Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2021 states that:

New housing developments – new housing developments are likely to require a need for the expansion of existing schools or the provision of new facilities. It is expected that this infrastructure will normally be funded/part-funded through either s106 contributions or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The need for new provision will be dependent on a number of factors as shown in Section 3 below. The Council will:

- consider the expansion of existing schools/academies where standards are consistently rated as good or outstanding. This may include increases in cohort sizes on the existing school site and/or the expansion of cohorts and/or an age range on a new or existing site;
- establish new academy free schools via national guidelines. There is an expectation that any new sponsor is part of an academy chain rated good/outstanding.

The Financial Regulations 2017 (3.38 – 3.43) require capital schemes in excess of £5 million to be submitted to Council for approval.

**DECISION:** That the Director of Corporate Services approves:

The award of the pre-construction professional services contract for the Baytree SEN second site Primary School to our partner contractor Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. The award of pre-construction is valued at £1.0m.

## **REASONS:**

The original budget was approved at the Full Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 as part of the People and Communities Commissioning Plan for School places – 2018 to 21. This was also followed by an initial budget of £1m being approved as part of the Capital strategy and budget reported to the February exec and as per page 13 of appendix 1 in the appendix referenced below.

The report to the Executive in February approved the budget of £1.0m for Pre-Construction work to commence.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

- Award the contract via the SCAPE National Framework.
- Conduct a full EU tender process. This would incur time delays that would have a negative impact on the delivery of the scheme.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Costs**

The Council has a strategic duty to ensure it has sufficient school places to meet demand. It fulfils this role by 'commissioning' places from schools and academies.

The new Primary School in is expected to cost in the region of £12m

### **Funding**

The funding has been approved in accordance with the Commissioning Report as submitted to the November Full Council Meeting

## **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

The appointment of a main contractor for the Pre-Construction phase of the new Baytree SEN Primary School is through the use of an established Framework Agreement - SCAPE.

The use of the SCAPE National Frameworks are fully EU compliant and enable an efficient route to market.

## **CONSULTATION**

A separate decision has been submitted for the consultation with interested parties on the wider scheme.

All relevant consultations will be undertaken as part of the planning process, which will include both formal and informal updates to the local Community and Parish Council by Council Officers and Willmott Dixon.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The nature of the site is sensitive in terms of Planning as it is within the Green Belt. This site was assessed alongside 12 other sites, as provided by the Call for Sites request and provided by the NSC Strategic Planner. Brookfield walk was deemed as being the most suitable out of those considered – this is subject to a separate report.

A review of the school provision has already been undertaken to reduce costs without detriment to provision.

The Council has a strong record of delivering new primary provision on time and within budget. Working with Baytree School avoids having to take contingency measures elsewhere that have their own capital and potentially revenue (transport) costs that could exceed the cost of the interim temporary measures. The Council works to the principle of delivering local places. To not progress the scheme could result in adverse publicity should primary aged pupils with the most profound SEN needs not be able to attend a local school.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes

As part of the planning process for new schools, local authorities must undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal, both on existing educational institutions locally and in terms of impact on particular groups of pupils from an equality's perspective. This is to enable the Secretary of State to meet his duties under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Most local authorities will do this when putting together the specification, so in practice it will just be a matter of providing the Secretary of State with a copy of their assessment.

The impact assessment carried out in respect of the proposed Baytree SEN Primary School showed that having regard to local infrastructure, provided the school:

1. Is established and grown in a timely and appropriate manner
2. Works in partnership with other local schools
3. Does not promote large scale relocation of existing pupils

The proposed new school is to be situated in an area of established residential properties. It is anticipated that the school will serve both its immediate area and also the wider district/whole of NSC. The particularly profound needs of the children in NSC will be provided within the very specialist setting proposed, as the facilities in Baytree The Campus are not suitable to meet the growing numbers requiring places.

**CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed schemes will contribute towards Council objectives and will be delivered using established corporate contractual arrangements.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to the Executive - February 2019

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: .....

Title: ...Jo Walker - Chief Executive.....

Date: .....

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: .....

Title: ...Richard Penska - Section 151 Officer

Date: .....

**Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:**