

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To approve the expenditure of up to £16k for planned maintenance fire precaution works at Stoke Prior Primary School from school capital maintenance funding
Date of decision:	21 October 2019
Decision maker:	Director for Children and Families
Authority for delegated decision:	The authority for the specified officer to take this decision is set out in the cabinet report approved 17 January 2019 (http://hc-modgov:9070/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5593)
Ward:	Hampton
Consultation:	<p>Cabinet debated and approved a report on the 2019/20 Local Authority Schools Maintenance Programme on 17 January 2019.</p> <p>Consultation has already been done in respect of the overall programme with the Capital Strategy Consultative Group, comprising a number of headteachers and council officers, who agreed the programme as a constructive way forward for the use of the grant.</p> <p>Political groups were consulted on the programme and no objections or comments were received.</p>
Decision made:	<p>Agreement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the fire precautions planned maintenance works at Stoke Prior Primary School, to be undertaken via Balfour Beatty Living Places and Melcon, at an initial cost of £12,048 plus associated contingency, professional and statutory fees. A total cost up to the value of £16,000 • Fund the works from the existing school capital maintenance budget
Reasons for decision:	<p>Stoke Prior Primary was included in the approved schools planned maintenance programme 2019/20 for fire precaution works.</p> <p>The project was subject to a competitive tendering exercise through Balfour Beatty. Costs received from tenderers were subject to scrutiny by Balfour Beatty quantity surveys prior to the contractor with the most cost effective tender being recommended for appointment. Melcon were consequently selected as the preferred sub-contractor to undertake the works following this process.</p> <p>Given the size of the school, preference is given to ensuring adequate fire protection through fire doors, compartmentation and emergency lighting, however the school reported that the existing fire alarm at the school had been showing a fault for several months, the cause of which could not be identified by the school or</p>

	<p>the electrical contractor that maintained the fire alarm on behalf of the school. Concern was therefore raised over whether the alarm would provide the appropriate level of warning should it be required. The schools electrical contractor also advised that the alarm was out-dated and replacement parts were no longer available. Given this situation it was considered appropriate to replace the fire alarm at the school instead of doing other fire precaution works and to upgrade to an L2 system which was likely to be of a higher cost than the fire precaution works alone; the additional costs would be covered by the contingency in the maintenance budget.</p> <p>The costs for the works will be covered using £16,000 from the schools capital maintenance budget; £11,000 of which has already been approved for expenditure against this item, the remaining £5,000 will be funded from the contingency within the schools capital maintenance budget as the works all equate to maintenance schemes that are the responsibility of the council.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The works can be covered within the budget originally allocated for fire precautions as part of the planned maintenance programme plus some funding from the contingency within the schools capital maintenance budget.</p> <p>There is a risk that once on site, further work is identified if the condition of the underlying structure is found to be poor. A contingency has been allowed to cover unforeseen elements once the existing infrastructure has been removed. Should this contingency be insufficient then a further officer decision will be required.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended as the school is not fully protected in terms of fire precaution mechanisms. Not undertaking the works could result in a significant health & safety risk to the building and its occupants.</p> <p>Undertake a different set of fire precaution works. The works put forward are considered the most appropriate and necessary to ensure the safety of the building and its occupants.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed

Date: 21 October 2019