

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To award a contract to provide consultancy services for the Expansion at Aylestone High School – appointment of Project Manager led Multi-Disciplinary Team.
Date of decision:	2 October 2023
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Children’s and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The authority for the specified officer to take this decision is set out in the cabinet report approved 23 February 2023.</p> <p>Aylestone School Expansion</p>
Ward:	Aylestone Hill
Consultation:	<p>Cabinet debated and approved the new build and remodelling for the expansion of Aylestone High school on 23 February 2023.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with the head teacher and trustees who are supportive of the proposals.</p> <p>The cabinet member for Community Services and Assets and the cabinet member for Children & Young People have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.</p> <p>The proposals were discussed with the ward Councillor for Aylestone Hill who are not supportive of the proposal to increase capacity without further exploring the barriers preventing the expansion of Whitecross High School and that Highways have considered the junction of Broadlands Lane and Aylestone Hill to accommodate additional school time traffic/congestion.</p> <p>Political groups were consulted and no objections were raised.</p> <p>A public consultation took place over the Summer term 2023. Those against the proposal were mainly concerned over increased traffic and therefore issues with parking, safety of pedestrians and increased pollution and the impact that will have on the natural environment. Some raised concerns of expanding a school that has a Requires Improvement judgement by OFSTED. Other comments included the lack of investment in other schools that are oversubscribed and additional lettings by the school. Some could not agree yet as there are no details of what the expansion would look like. Impact on the highways and environment will be looked at in in greater detail in the design stage.</p>

<p>Decision made:</p>	<p>To award a contract to Gleeds Management Services Ltd, to provide a project management led multi-disciplinary team for RIBA 2-6 for the Expansion at Aylestone High School, following the completion of a successful tender, evaluation and moderation process.</p> <p>To approve the expenditure of up to £859,219.40 which includes: Consultancy Services = £735,654.00 Contingency = £73,565.40 (10%) Internal Fees = £50,000</p> <p>Responsibility for monitoring the project to be carried out by the Capital Senior Project Manager within the spend budget.</p>
<p>Reasons for decision:</p>	<p>Additional capacity is required to meet growing numbers in the north of the city and following on from feasibility work, a decision has been approved for additional capacity at Aylestone School, which will relieve the overall pressure in the north of the city.</p> <p>A feasibility study was commissioned to identify what opportunities there are at the school to expand. The study identified that the increase in capacity causes the school to be under-provided for accommodation in several areas: under-provided and under-sized general and specialist teaching spaces, an under provision of a suitable sports hall and under provision of administration, storage and toilet areas.</p> <p>This project chiefly addresses the need for the required additional spaces, through some remodelling and a new build teaching block and sports hall which will be designed and built in such a way that it can be added to in the future.</p> <p>During this stage, the project management led team will act as a client agent/representative for the duration of the project, RIBA Stages 2-6, with the new build and remodelling being delivered under a Design & Build (D&B) contract.</p> <p>The appointment will include for preparing relevant tender documents and evaluations for the appointment of a contractor under a D&B contract for the construction of the new build areas and remodelling of the school.</p> <p>Gleeds Management Services LTD have been selected following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.</p>

<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.</p> <p>The new school expansion is intended to serve all members of the local community, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>The principle equalities impact of the decision to expand Aylestone School related to the design and layout of the building. The current buildings are deficient in many respects. The new building would conform to all current legislative requirements and would meet the needs of disabled pupils and their families, as well as staff and other users of the building.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The costs for the new build and remodeling will be funded from the Basic Needs Grant received from the Department for Education which has been approved by cabinet in the decision on 23 February 2023.</p>

<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Expand Whitecross High School – this would have been the preferred option, as there is a significant shortage of capacity at the school. However, the school is part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract for which the Council pays a unitary charge to the PFI contractor. The council explored what the impact of an extension at Whitecross would have on the PFI contract. Although the landlord was agreeable for the school to expand, it was identified that there would be a significant uplift in the annual unitary charge which has meant that any expansion, at this time, would not be financially viable, and therefore this option is not recommended.</p> <p>Expand Kingstone High School – this was explored in detail and remains an option for the future, but not recommended at this time. A decision to expand Kingstone by one form of entry (1FE = 150 pupils) was due to be heard by Cabinet in November 2022 (to be closely followed by a further 1FE expansion proposal for Aylestone High School), but was later withdrawn to allow for: additional options to be considered following feedback during pre-cabinet scrutiny; and, further analysis identified a greater need for places in the city. Despite a number of housing developments in its catchment, Kingstone High School has the physical capacity to serve all the children in its catchment, meet the demand of the developments and provide the majority of places requested by parental preference. Any expansion at Kingstone, at this time, would result in transporting learners from the city to the Golden Valley and therefore would not align with the council’s commitment to climate change.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed.....

Date: 10 October 2023

Print Name: Darryl Freeman

Job Title: Corporate Director Children’s and Young People