

## **Cabinet – 18 April 2007**

### **Mary Elliot Special School**

Portfolio: Councillor John O'Hare, Resources

Wards: Blakenall

Service: Built Environment

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

#### **Summary of report**

In December 2006 Cabinet approved the use of the SCAPE/Willmott Dixon national framework to deliver the scheme to provide a special school for Mary Elliott. Cabinet is now asked to give delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services to enable orders in connection with the project to be placed with SCAPE/Willmott Dixon in order to deliver the scheme on time. The approved budget for this scheme is £7.19 million identified from Capital funding. Since the Cabinet report in December 2006 the design has been developed and a planning application submitted.

By seeking delegated authority to enter into contract with SCAPE, the programme for the project will be maintained. At the time of the last report in December 2006 it had not been anticipated that elections would remove the May Cabinet meeting. If Cabinet authority was delayed until June, then the project completion date could not be achieved

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services to place orders for the project.

#### **Resource & legal considerations**

The use of the SCAPE/Willmott Dixon framework will enable the school to be built in the shortest possible time as the framework is already pre-established through the European procurement process. The Council has entered into an access agreement with SCAPE and has ensured that there is a framework agreement between SCAPE and Willmott Dixon.

Willmott Dixon has now completed a concept scheme, price and design and completed a first stage gateway review on design, cost, programme and risk. A final gateway review will be completed before the final order is placed.

The brief has developed since the December 2006 Cabinet report and in order to secure enhanced facilities, the Governors of Mary Elliott wish to make a contribution of £260,000 towards the scheme.

This scheme is included within the approved capital programme for 2007/08.

### **Citizen Impact**

The provision of the new school will contribute to the improved learning of the pupils at Mary Elliott School

### **Community safety**

No further community safety items have been identified since the Cabinet Report in 2006.

### **Environmental impact**

The Cabinet Report in December 2006 identified that the building will be designed to achieve a BREEAM rating of 'very good'. This work is progressing well.

### **Performance and risk management issues:**

The Cabinet Report in December 2006 identified a number of risks. The update on these risks can be summarised as follows:

The report stated that the budget is realistic subject to:

1. **Building Design:**  
The Design is now substantially agreed, and ground conditions identified and budgeted for
2. **Planning Permission:** A planning application was made in January 2007 and permission has now been granted. However, the building is being constructed in the green belt, which could lead to a call-in by GOWM. News is still awaited from GOWM on whether the project will be called-in. This will be known during April 2007.
3. **Sport England:** At the time of the Cabinet Report in December 2006, it was anticipated that Sport England would object to the development. This has not been the case and Sport England has made no objections.
4. **Completion:** The Cabinet report in December 2006 stated the target completion date of June 2008 was ambitious and required that the planning application be submitted in December 2006/January 2007. The planning application was submitted. However, the programme remains ambitious particularly in obtaining sign-off from stakeholders of the project in design terms.
5. **Costs:** The December 2006 report identified abortive costs if this scheme did not proceed beyond the third stage. This situation remains until the final order is placed.

6. **Access Agreement:** The Cabinet report in December 2006 identified that once the access agreement has been signed, SCAPE will require their actual costs to be paid. The completion of the access agreement is scheduled for April 2007.

Contingency plans need to be put in place if the June 2008 programme date slips because of the occurrence of any of the above outstanding risks. The risk profile of the project will reduce significantly over the next 3 months.

### **Equality implications**

No further equality implications have been identified since the Cabinet report in December 2006.

### **Consultation**

All representatives have taken part in the client team in developing the design since December 2006. Sport England and GOWM have been consulted.

### **Vision 2008**

No further items have been identified since the December 2006 Cabinet report.

### **Background papers**

- Report to Cabinet September 2006 Framework Contracts
- Report to Cabinet July 2006 Capital Allocations
- Report to Cabinet December 2006 Mary Elliot Special School

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4 April 2007



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