



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## AREA PANEL 1 1 SEPTEMBER 2004

Report of the Director of Corporate Services on behalf of the Project Board

### **Derby Grouped Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI): Construction works at Da Vinci Community College (formerly High View)**

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1 PFI is increasingly becoming the only way in which local authorities can put together the high levels of funding needed to undertake major building projects. This is Derby's first education PFI project, but Derby City Council have had involvement with other PFI related projects, one of them being in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council, for the provision of serviced Magistrates Court Buildings. PFI works by allowing local authorities to enter into a contract with a private contractor to build and maintain its schools. We as a Council then pay leasing and maintenance costs to the contractor for a period of 25 years.
- 1.2 A public meeting was held at High View School on Wednesday 7 July to inform the local community of what would be taking place over the coming months. This meeting was poorly attended and it was felt that an area panel meeting would be a more appropriate form of communication.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 10 March 2003, the government's Project Review Group approved the Council's Outline Business Case (OBC) for the amount of £43.8m to build five new schools across the city. The schools involved in the Project are Merrill College, Da Vinci Community College (formerly High View), Sinfin Primary, Lakeside Community Primary (formerly Wilmorton Primary and Southgate Infants) and Hardwick Primary.
- 1.4 At its meeting on 27 April 2004, Council Cabinet approved a report to appoint Vinci Investments Ltd (the new name for the consortium is now Derby Schools Solutions) as the Council's Preferred Bidder and that officers be authorised to enter into negotiations with a view to establishing a final contract.
- 1.5 The Project Agreement is due to be signed week commencing 13 September 2004, and Da Vinci will be in the first phase of the Project with construction starting sometime after this date.
- 1.6 Construction work will take place whilst pupils are in the existing school buildings. Due to the tightness of the site, Norwest Holst will ensure that the site is safe, secure and segregated from the live school site.
- 1.7 It is envisaged, as part of the hoardings around the site to have a regular update of what is happening on site to inform the local community. There will also be public meetings held at the school.

## PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 This report is to note the progress of the construction of Da Vinci Community College and updates will be given as and when necessary.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** None