

Time started	11.00am
Time ended	11.10am

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 23 November 2020

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance Councillors Williams and Hezelgrave
Gurmail Nizzer – Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning

06/20 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

07/20 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not apply

It was confirmed that consent had been granted from the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board for the matter under consideration as an urgent key decisions (detailed at minute no 10/20) to be exempted from call-in.

The reasons for urgency for was, to ensure both the temporary arrangements, and the new build, could be completed as soon as was reasonably practical. Urgent approval was required to secure the proposed temporary accommodation due to the availability of the necessary hire units.

Due to the urgent nature of the works, and the requirement to place orders to demolish fire damaged buildings and to secure the temporary accommodation for Ravensdale Infant school, an urgent decision of the Leader was required before 26th November 2020.

08/20 Declarations of interest

There were none.

09/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2020 were agreed.

Urgent Key Decision

10/20 Ravensdale Infant School – Post Fire Recovery

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of People Services which sought approval to place orders and award contracts for the demolition and site clearance of Ravensdale Infant School and to provide temporary accommodation for part of the school following the recent fire.

Approval was being sought for two elements of the proposed recovery plans currently being developed, as follows:

- Demolition and clearing the Ravensdale Infant School site as the first phase of a capital scheme for a permanent new replacement school building - estimated cost of £239,506;
- Temporary accommodation on the site of Ravensdale Infant School for part of the school to return to site early in 2021 ahead of the permanent rebuild – estimated cost of £1,005,981.

It was necessary to seek urgent approval for the works, to ensure both the temporary arrangements, and the new build, could be completed as soon as was reasonably practical. Urgent approval was required to secure the proposed temporary accommodation due to the availability of the necessary hire units.

It was proposed that each element would be funded from the insurance settlement, currently undergoing review with the insurance loss adjuster. The loss adjuster had confirmed agreement, subject to final actual costs being provided by the Council.

Options considered

The Council had no other option but to seek to replace Ravensdale Infant school at the earliest opportunity.

The Council had considered all other options for the temporary decanting arrangements, including the use of vacant properties and other sites. The options taken forward were the most suitable, timely and cost-effective solutions available.

Decision

1. To approve, subject to recommendation 2.5, the addition of £239,506 to the Schools Capital Programme for phase 1 (demolition costs) of Ravensdale Infant School, to be funded from the anticipated insurance settlement and profiled as appropriate.
2. To approve, subject to recommendation 2.5, the provision of temporary classrooms at Ravensdale Infant School at an estimated cost of £1,005,981 to be paid from the anticipated insurance settlement and to be added to the revenue budget and profiled as appropriate.
3. To approve, subject to recommendation 2.5, scheme commencement for the above works without the need for Gateway approval, and to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources to add the profiled spend to the 2020/21-2022/23 capital programme and revenue budget as appropriate.
4. To approve the transfer to reserves of the insurance monies and use of insurance reserve as appropriate to fund the expenditure outlined.
5. To note that the above costs were anticipated costs, and the Council was working closely with its insurer to seek a full insurance settlement for each element. Final costs would be reported to Council Cabinet once confirmed.

Reasons

1. In accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, additions to the Council's capital programme and new proposals for revenue expenditure not provided for in the approved budget were required to be reported to Council Cabinet for approval.
2. Due to the urgent nature of the works, and the requirement to place orders to demolish fire damaged buildings and to secure the temporary accommodation for Ravensdale Infant school, an urgent decision of the Leader was required before 26th November 2020.

MINUTES END