

ITEM 8



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 1
8 JUNE 2005

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 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.
- 1.3 We reached Commercial Close on 30 November 2004, followed by Financial Close on 23 December 2004. Construction started in January 2005 at Sinfin Primary and Hardwick Primary. Work has also started at Merrill College.
- 1.4 A public meeting was held at the school on 2 March 2005 along with representatives from Norwest Holst (the construction arm of the consortium) and members of the Council's Project Team. Details of the proposed works were explained, and the site is registered with the Considerate Contractors Scheme.
- 1.5 Construction started on site on Monday 4 April 2005, and so far work undertaken has been as follows:
 - Foundations to Block A – 95 % complete
 - Steel erection has been confirmed for 9 May 2005.
 - External drainage is being progressed
 - Entrance road and compound car park is currently being worked on
 - All weather sports pitch and tennis courts are formed to sub-base level.
- 1.6 Norwest Holst have a detailed site traffic plan in place and segregation of pedestrians and plant is ongoing. Very careful consideration has been given to the entrance/exit to the site and the danger this could cause to general public especially with the existing schools in such proximity.

- 1.7 Weekly liaison meetings take place between Norwest Holst's site manager and the Headteacher where a wide range of issues are discussed. Liaison is also ongoing with the Headteacher of Breadsall Hilltop Junior School.
- 1.8 As part of the hoardings around the site, regular updates of what is happening on site to inform the local community will be displayed. There will also be further 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