

| | |
|---|---|
| Meeting of: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting: | Monday, 18 November 2019 |
| Relevant Scrutiny Committee: | Learning and Culture |
| Report Title: | Western Vale Primaries - Acceptance of Tender |
| Purpose of Report: | To seek Cabinet approval for the acceptance of a competitive tender for the new build works at three primary schools across the Western Vale. |
| Report Owner: | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration |
| Responsible Officer: | Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills |
| Elected Member and Officer Consultation: | <p style="text-align: center;">Officers Consulted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trevor Baker: Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources Jane O'Leary: 21st Century Schools Programme Manager Carolyn Michael: Operational Manager, Accountancy Victoria Davidson: Operational Manager, Legal Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Each of the three schemes has been subject to a statutory consultation process with prescribed consultees in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2003.</p> |
| Policy Framework: | This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet. |
| <p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 15 July 2019, Cabinet approved the revised Band B 21st Century Schools Programme which included three primary schemes in the Western Vale: St David's CIW Primary School, St Nicholas CIW Primary School and Primary Provision in the Western Vale. (Cabinet minute C39) • Tenders were recently sought using the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) contractor framework under Lot 9. • These have subsequently been evaluated by Vale of Glamorgan Council and AECOM (Multi-disciplinary Consultancy) in accordance with the criteria stated in the tender documentation. • Further details of AECOM's tender evaluation are outlined in the Part II item on this agenda. | |

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes this report and recommendations and consider the same in connection with the Part II report later in the agenda.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To allow Part I and II reports to be considered together.

1. Background

- 1.1** The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme is a unique collaboration between the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. It is a major long term strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st Century Schools in Wales.
- 1.2** In July 2017, the Council submitted its Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) to Welsh Government, identifying the projects included within the Band B programme. The Council's SOP was subsequently approved by Welsh Government on 10 November 2017.
- 1.3** On 21 November 2018 Welsh Government and WLGA issued a joint statement announcing a change to the Welsh Government intervention rate for the 21st Century Schools Programme. Welsh government funding for non-faith school schemes would increase from 50% to 65%. A new intervention rate was introduced for facilities for those pupils with additional learning needs and those in pupil referral units at 75% Welsh Government funding.
- 1.4** Due to the above policy change, on 15 July 2019 Cabinet approved a more robust Band B 21st Century Schools Programme to consider emerging new priorities (Cabinet minute C39). The programme included three primary schemes in the Western Vale: St David's CIW Primary School, St Nicholas CIW Primary School and Primary Provision in the Western Vale. A new 210 place school building, with additional space to accommodate 48 part-time nursery places, has been included as part of each scheme.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** A two-stage tendering process has been undertaken as a joint exercise combining the three new 210 place primary schools across the Western Vale. The delivery of the project from tender to build completion spans October 2019 to September 2021. The schemes have been tendered as a single contract to benefit from economies of scale and to maximise the number of potential bidders. A single contract combining the three new schools will make it more attractive to developers and ensure that the schemes are delivered within timescales. The number of proposals being progressed currently within the Welsh Government Band B 21st Century School programme means that the

market is competitive. It is important that the Council ensures that it is able to procure the contract on advantageous terms to enable it to deliver the schemes in line with its Strategic Outline Programme.

- 2.2 The first stage appointment would be for design and procurement services only. This would include developing a range of design options for each scheme working alongside key stakeholders. A preferred option would be identified for each scheme which would be subject to a full planning application which would need to be completed by July 2020. The pre-application consultation process would be due to commence from January 2020.
- 2.3 Tenders for the works have recently been sought. The tender process utilised the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) Contractor Framework.
- 2.4 4 tenders were received and opened on 4 October 2019. These have subsequently been evaluated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and AECOM (multi-discipline consultancy) in accordance with the criteria stated in the tender documentation.
- 2.5 Further details of AECOM's tender evaluation are outlined in the Part II item on this agenda.
- 2.6 If approved by Cabinet, the Council will enter into a Professional Services Contract only with the successful contractor at this stage.
- 2.7 A further report will not be presented to Cabinet until July 2020 for the second stage appointment. This appointment would be for the construction of the school buildings by executing an NEC4 Option A (Lump Sum with Activity Schedule) Contract with the successful contractor.
- 2.8 The steps outlined above would ensure that the project is delivered in line with the Council's SOP with Welsh Government, ensuring that the new schools are constructed for a September 2021 opening.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act") requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2 To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales

- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

3.3 This proposal contributes to achieving the wellbeing goals by:

- Improving sustainability of school buildings through the creation of BREEAM Excellent accommodation.
- Ensure an efficient supply and demand of school places across the Vale of Glamorgan through effective forecasting of future demand.
- The new schools would be designed to better meet the needs of pupils. The new buildings would provide break out/wellbeing areas for students with additional learning needs.
- A key objective of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- Supporting contractors to deliver a programme of community benefits that aims to reduce unemployment through increased apprenticeship opportunities.

3.4 The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out "sustainable development", defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals." The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives.

3.5 Previously completed Band A projects have contributed to improving the economic and environmental wellbeing of Wales as follows.

- Over 70% of project spend has been within Wales.
- Over 90% of the workforce has been recruited from within Wales
- A minimum of 80% of waste has been averted from landfill and recycled.

3.6 The 2015 Act sets out five ways of working needed for the Council to achieve the seven well-being goals, these being:

- The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
- Considering how the Council's objectives impact upon each of the wellbeing goals listed above.
- The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council services.

- Acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.
 - Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
- 3.7** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 to achieving a vision of ‘Strong Communities with a Bright Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of a number of Well-being objectives to deliver this vision.
- 3.8** Well-being Outcome 3, ‘An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale’ is specifically linked to education with a number of objectives contributing to the 21st Century Schools programme. We have prioritised the need to raise standards of achievement as one of our well-being objectives. We are proud of the Vale of Glamorgan and our place in Wales and that the use of the Welsh language is growing in the Vale. We respect and value diversity within our communities and recognise the importance of promoting equality of opportunity. We also appreciate our unique heritage and culture and the importance for people of all ages to enjoy a range of activities and to have opportunities to be creative. We have therefore identified valuing culture and diversity as one of our eight well-being objectives.
- 3.9** Details of the objectives that the 21st Century Schools Programme supports and contributes to are outlined below.

Well-being Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale

- All Vale of Glamorgan citizens have opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Objective 5: Raising overall standards of achievement.

- Improve standards of achievement for pupils through sharing excellence between schools and the targeting of resources.
 - Secure improved outcomes for groups of learners at risk of underachievement, such as those entitled to free school meals.
 - Increase the learning opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and vulnerable families.
 - Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.
 - Secure aspirational outcomes for learners with additional learning needs through early intervention and effective collaboration in line with the proposed Additional Learning Needs Bill.
 - Implement the new school modernisation programme in delivery of Band B of the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme.
- 3.10** The construction would be undertaken in line with the five ways of working, promoting collaboration and ensuring all stakeholders are involved throughout the design process.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The capital cost for the three 210 place new build primary schools is £12.555m. This amount is currently included within the Capital Programme.
- 4.2** The project is jointly funded by the Council and Welsh Government, through the 21st Century Schools Programme. The Welsh Government contribution will be £8.290m with the Council contributing the remaining £4.265m. The Council's contribution is funded using Section 106 contributions received from housing developers.

Employment

- 4.3** The staff, governing body and pupils at St David's CIW Primary School, St Nicholas CIW Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School would move to their respective new school buildings for September 2021. Staff would remain on existing terms and conditions.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.4** It will be necessary to enter into formally executed contracts with the successful bidder.

5. Background Papers

- Proposed Reconfiguration of Primary Provision in the Western Vale, 18 March 2019 (Cabinet minute C626)
- Proposal to Increase the Number of Primary School Places from 140 Places to 210 Places at St. David's Church in Wales Primary School, 15 July 2019 (Cabinet minute C 41)
- 21st Century Schools Programme - Band B Update, 15 July 2019 (Cabinet minute C39)
- Proposal to Increase the Number of Primary School Places and Establish 48 Part Time Nursery Places at St. Nicholas CIW Primary School, 23 September 2019 (Cabinet minute C95)