

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 08 March 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Centre for Learning and Wellbeing - Acceptance of Tender
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet approval for the acceptance of a competitive tender for the construction of the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing
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>Officers Consulted Trevor Baker: Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources Carolyn Michael: Operational Manager (Accountancy) Emma Reed: Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport Colin Smith: Operational Manager, Neighbourhood Services Committee Reports</p> <p>The establishment of the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing 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 8 February 2021, Cabinet approved the proposal to transform specialist education by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishing a specialist resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021; ○ discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021; and ○ constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry opening from January 2023. • A competitive procurement exercise has been undertaken using Lot 7 of the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) contractor framework to construct the new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing on the Court Road Depot site. 	

- 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 note this report and recommendations considered 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 a creation of a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing. The revised programme was subsequently approved by Welsh Government on 16 September 2019.
- 1.5** On 8 February 2021, Cabinet approved the proposal to transform specialist education by:
 - establishing a specialist resource base at Gladstone primary school as a satellite of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021;
 - discontinuing Y Daith and establishing a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing under the management of Ysgol Y Deri from September 2021; and
 - constructing a new building for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing pupils on the Court Road Depot site in Barry opening from January 2023.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** On 4 December 2020, the Council invited tenders for the construction of the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing. The tender process utilised lot 7 of the South East Wales Schools and Capital Funding (SEWSCAP) Contractor Framework.
- 2.2** A two-stage tender process has been utilised to ensure the contractor is involved prior to the completion of all the information required to enable a total build price to be established. The first stage appointment would include design and procurement services. This would include developing a range of design options working alongside key stakeholders. A preferred option would be identified which would be subject to a full planning application. A full cost plan would then be developed to undertake the works.
- 2.3** There are a number of checks and balances as part of this two-stage process. including assessment of market rates via our multidisciplinary partner AECOM.
- 2.4** 5 tenders were received by the deadline on Monday 1 February 2021. These have subsequently been evaluated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and AECOM based on the criteria stated in the tender documentation.
- 2.5** A 70/30% quality/price criteria was set as the tender price does not constitute the overall build cost. The NEC Professional Services Contract is proposed for the pre-construction design and procurement services.
- 2.6** Further details regarding the tender evaluation are outlined in the Part II item on this agenda.
- 2.7** Following their appointment, the project team would work with the contractor to develop the second stage proposal which would include the full cost of the works.
- 2.8** A further report would be presented to Cabinet in October 2021 when the full build cost has been established. A Construction Contract (ECC) NEC4 Option A (Lump Sum with Activity Schedule) is proposed for the main contract works.

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** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
 - Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities
 - Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
 - Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community

- Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** 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
- 3.4** The 21st Century Schools Programme 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.
 - Providing additional school places to meet increased demand as a result of recent and proposed housing developments.
 - Providing facilities available for community use.
- 3.5** 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.
- 3.6** 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 21st Century Schools Programme meets the five ways of working by:

- Responding to the need to ensure that there is a well-managed balance of supply and demand of school places as a result of recent and planned housing developments. It is recognised that the changing demographics in the Vale of Glamorgan will significantly affect the demand for our services. Short term and long term need and the assessment of demographic increases is an important aspect of the Council's strategic planning responsibilities.
- Developing schools that will have an environment reflective of the national mission for education in Wales and future curriculum.
- Working towards ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. This ambition is achieved by ensuring that schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of local communities and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.
- Contributing towards a healthier Wales by supporting sustainable transport strategies and providing additional sport facilities.
- Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to working with Welsh Government on the 21st Century Schools Programme. The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme in the Vale of Glamorgan will drive greater social value while delivering on the Welsh Government's community benefits through its investment in education infrastructure and employment. Specifically, it will increase contributions to education, training and skills across the Vale and the region and provide opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible.
- Delivering rigorous consultation with open communication channels and numerous opportunities for stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- Ensuring that schools are of the right size, in the right places and serving the educational needs of their local communities as part of the school organisation process.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The capital funding allocated for the Centre for Learning and Wellbeing is £4.5m. This amount is included within the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.2** The scheme is jointly funded by the Council and Welsh Government, through the 21st Century Schools Programme. The Welsh Government contribution will be £3.3m with the Council contributing the remaining £1.2m. The Council's contribution is included as part of the Council's capital programme.

- 4.3** The Council has submitted a request to Welsh Government to increase the level of funding to include an additional £300k. This would support additional decarbonisation measures to contribute to Welsh Government's Local Carbon Delivery Plan.

Employment

- 4.4** The new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing will be established from September 2021 and will be managed by the governing body of Ysgol Y Deri. Between September 2021 and January 2023, the Centre will operate from the existing buildings currently utilised by Y Daith. All staff would transfer to the newly constructed Centre for Learning and Wellbeing for January 2023.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.5** It will be necessary to enter into formally executed contracts with the successful bidder.
- 4.6** There are no Equal Opportunities implications for this report.

5. Background Papers

None