

**7 FEBRUARY 2012**

**Wards Affected**

Woughton

**AWARD OF TENDER – ST PAUL’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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**Executive Summary**

This report requests permission to award the tender for capital works at St Paul’s Catholic School which will involve a number of extensions being added to the existing buildings on the school site. This scheme forms part of the Council's approved Children and Families Capital Programme. It has been procured via a mini competition process, using the Milton Keynes Council Construction Framework.

**1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information Relating to the Financial or Business Affairs of the Authority) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 during consideration of the **Annex** to the report.
- 1.2 That, following evaluation of returns under Lot 2 of the Construction Framework the contract be awarded to the contractor submitting the Most Economically Advantageous Tender for the capital building project at St Paul’s Catholic School, subject to receiving Planning Approval.

**2. Issues**

- 2.1 The capital investment is designed to support a planned increase in the school admission number from the current level of 240 to 270. The project will provide an additional eight classrooms, two science laboratories, a reconfigured entrance and administration area, along with a number of additional minor extensions across the school site.
- 2.2 School staff and the Governing Body have been fully involved in the project with regular meetings taking place involving all concerned parties. In addition information and details of the proposals have been shared with stakeholders through school news letters and bulletins and at parent evenings through a number of presentations.

2.3 Planning approval for the full scheme is still awaited but is anticipated to be achieved in mid February. All indications are that approval will be achieved to this timescale and the project team has worked closely with both Planning and Highways to ensure no major issues arise. Should approval slip until March, a separate application covering the most time critical element of the works has also been made. Approval for this element of the scheme will be achieved in early February thus allowing the contractor to start on site at the end of March, with approval for the full scheme being obtained before any additional works commence.

### 3. Alternative Options

3.1 Do nothing – The growth of Milton Keynes has lead to an increase in the demand for places at the school from applicants meeting the school admission criteria. The number of preferences expressed by parents for a place at the school averages 435 a year compared to the 240 places currently available.

3.2 Provide additional spaces at an alternative school site – If additional capacity is not provided at St Paul’s Catholic School the authority would need to provide additional spaces elsewhere in Milton Keynes in order to ensure the provision of sufficient and suitable school places.

### 4. Implications

#### 4.1 Policy

The proposal to increase the number of places at St Paul’s Catholic School, both assists in ensuring that the Council meets its statutory requirements and falls within the Council’s stated policy. The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient and suitable school places for pupils living within its boundary and that want a place.

#### 4.2 Resources and Risk

A capital allocation of £2,350,000 has been identified and approved within the Children and Families Capital Programme to enable the necessary additional accommodation to be provided at the school. In addition to this the school are providing additional funding, bringing the total budget up to £2,530,000, which will cover the build, specialist fees and furniture and equipment. The capital allocation is being funded from the Single Capital Pot element of the education capital programme. The borrowing approval was sought from the Department for Education through basic need to provide additional school places in Milton Keynes to support pupil growth.

The project is identified within the updated 2010-11 Schools Asset Management Plan (AMP).

Y	Capital	N	Revenue	Y	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

#### 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The proposal supports the Council's Carbon and Energy Management policy and the new build elements will be in line with current requirements and will use sustainable sources/methods where possible. The appointed contractor will be required to be compliant with environmental legislation. The design has also obtained building control approval.

#### 4.4 Legal

The Council has a legal obligation under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to provide sufficient, high quality school places and to ensure that these places offer sufficient choice and diversity of provision, such as the provision of places in different types of schools.

The proposed expansion is of insufficient size to provoke the statutory processes for expanding a school (Education and Inspections Act 2006) and there has therefore been no requirement for consultation or the publishing of a statutory notice. The school will, however, consult on raising its admission number for 2013 from 240 to 270 as part of the statutory consultation surrounding its future admissions arrangements in accordance with the current admissions code of practice.

#### 4.5 Other Implications

There are no other implications.

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: None