

Officer Decision Record Template

Record of Decision of the Group Leader Estates

Subject: Increase in Scheme Costs for the re-roofing of Milefield Primary

BACKGROUND

The school condition programme was approved at cabinet on the 15th April 2020.

At the time of submitting the report, the Department for Education (DFE) had not announced the 2020-21 School Condition allocation. As a result an indicative budget figure, based on the funding received in 2019-20, was used as a base to determine the programme.

On the 16th April the DFE announced the 2020-21 allocation for Barnsley that amounted to £757,526. This was a reduction of £107,691 on the allocation received in 2019-20.

The school condition programme was amended in line with the funding allocated by the DFE and an Officer Decision Record was submitted on the 15th May to reflect these changes. This was primarily achieved by deferring the scheme to re-roof Milefield Primary to the summer of 2021 and at the same time reducing the monetary value from £550k to £377k. It was too late into the year to reallocate the monies to alternate schemes as it would be very difficult to design and procure the works in the timescale available.

The decision to defer Milefield was also based on a number of other factors. Following further structural investigations and continued design development, the latest estimated costs for delivering this complicated roofing scheme rose from £550k to £625k. At the same time the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the construction sector was not known, but with suppliers and manufacturers closed and social distancing measures on construction sites being introduced, it was considered too greater risk to continue the scheme at the time.

On the 29th June the government has announced a 'top-up' to the school condition grant of £375k. The timing of which allowed no time for works to be completed during the summer 2020 holiday period.

In order to restart the design works and allow a procurement exercise to take place early in 2021, it is proposed to increase the funding set against the Milefield roofing project to the current estimated cost of the works (£625k). This would amount to £248k and would be funded from the additional schools condition allocation of £375k previously mentioned.

REASON FOR REQUEST AND RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

By increasing the funding, to cover the current estimated cost of the scheme, it allows a procurement exercise to take place early 2021. This will allow a contractor to be appointed early in the new financial year and give a significant lead in time to ensure materials and supplies are on site in good time.

It also allows for a further procurement exercise to take place in the event of an unsuccessful exercise being undertaken the first time.

The country is still in the midst on the pandemic. This alongside the unknown restrictions association with leaving the European Union may have a significant impact in the availability of materials manufactured overseas. By having such a long lead in time, it gives the contractor

sufficient time to plan the works, source alternate materials and gain approvals should there be an issue.

CONSEQUENCES IF THE PROPOSED ACTION IS NOT APPROVED

If the proposed action is not approved, the alternative would be to submit a full cabinet report for approval. This would not fit into the current procurement route and will significantly impact on the ability to appoint a contractor early and give them sufficient time to source materials for the scheme.

It will also be highly unlikely that a second procurement exercise could take place in the event that the first one was unsuccessful.

RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the increase in costs to the Milefield re-roofing scheme be accepted and works continue to design, procure and appoint a contractor as near as possible to the 1st April 2021 as possible.

Authority

Cab. 15.4.2020/9 – minute number 231.

Delegated Authority in accordance with Officer Delegations May 2018 Para 23 (Corporate Asset Manager)

Decision Taken

The increase in costs for the Milefield re-roofing scheme are approved.

Date of Decision

24th November 2020

Elected Member Conflicts of Interest

Not applicable

Signature



(Tim Hartley – Group Leader - Assets)

Scan/email the completed form and appendices to governance@barnsley.gov.uk and keep the original on the project file