

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (and Deputy Leader)	Ref No:ES03 (18/19)
June 2018	Key Decision: Yes
Replacement of Modular Teaching Accommodation at Southwater Infant School and Southwater Junior School	Part I
Report by Director Economy, Planning and Place and Director of Education and Skills	Electoral Division: Southwater and Nuthurst

Summary

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children who need a place. This report seeks approval to commence a procurement exercise for the construction and supply of replacement modular teaching accommodation at Southwater Infant School and Southwater Junior School to ensure the schools can continue to accommodate the demand for pupil places in the locality. The project is to be funded from Section 106 (S106) contributions.

It is proposed that the new accommodation will be available at the Junior School in early spring 2019 with the Infant School buildings complete for September 2019.

Recommendations:-

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills agrees: -

- (1) That authority is given to commence the procurement for the construction and supply of the replacement modular units.
- (2) That authority is delegated to the Director Economy, Planning and Place to award the contract for carrying out the works detailed in the report.

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient primary and secondary school places for all children who need a place. In its strategic role as commissioner of school places, the County Council must respond to changes in demand over time by increasing or removing capacity. It discharges this duty in partnership with diocesan authorities and other providers. In deciding the need for places it considers the capacities of existing schools and the forecast number on roll within a locality (family group of schools).

- 1.2 School places need to be available to pupils for the start of each school year, with projects planned and delivered, wherever practicable, by the summer in the relevant year. The Basic Need, suitability and condition requirements are reviewed annually to identify the next tranches of projects and to ensure planned projects are still required following reviews of projection data of pupil numbers.
- 1.3 This report sets out the identified need for the replacement of poor quality modular teaching accommodation at Southwater Infant and Southwater Junior Schools to ensure the schools can continue to provide for the current and projected pupil numbers in the locality and to ensure effective organisation of the schools.
- 1.4 The project will be procured utilising a two stage design and build approach with Stage 1 comprising the design fees and Stage 2 being the works, furniture and equipment and information and communications technology (ICT) installation.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to replace poor quality modular teaching accommodation at Southwater Infant and Southwater Junior School. This will enable the schools to continue to provide sufficient capacity for those currently requiring a primary school place in the locality.
- 2.2 To meet the needs of the pupils, the proposal is to replace four double modular classrooms (8 classrooms in total) across the two sites with new purpose built modular classrooms including storage and WCs. It is proposed that the new accommodation will be available at the Junior School in early spring 2019 with the Infant School buildings complete for September 2019.
- 2.3 The proposed works will ensure that the County Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places in the locality and meets its statutory responsibility with regard to the provision of school places in safe and properly maintained buildings.
- 2.4 The proposed procurement route is two stage design and build. The proposal is to procure the Stage 1 contractor in June 2018 allowing a planning submission in August 2018. It is anticipated that the Stage 2 contract will be let in November 2018.

3 Resources

- 3.1 Section 106 contributions totalling £1.1m have now been received and are available to allocate to the provision of replacement modular teaching accommodation in the Southwater locality.
- 3.2 The County Council's Employers' Agent and Cost Manager has advised that a budget of £1.1m should be sufficient for the proposed works. Professional advice is to be sought on the design before works commence on site and a Clerk of Works appointed so as to protect the County Council's interests.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 The project has been designed and agreed in full consultation and agreement with the schools.
- 4.2 The project will be submitted for detailed planning approval as a Regulation 3 planning application. The submission of the application is expected in August 2018.
- 4.3 The proposal has been discussed with the local Member representing Southwater and Nuthurst, who is supportive of the recommended way forward.

5 Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 The County Council is under a statutory duty to secure safe and sufficient education provision within the area. This project will ensure that the County Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places in the locality and meets its statutory responsibility with regard to the provision of school places in safe and properly maintained buildings.
- 5.2 If these works are not carried out the authority may not be able to meet its statutory duty with regard to the provision of sufficient school places. This will impact on parents' and pupils' perceptions of the quality of the schools, and may pose a risk to health and welfare.

6 Other Options Considered

- 6.1 One alternative is not to undertake the project. This would mean that the County Council cannot meet its statutory requirement to provide sufficient primary school places in the area or meet its statutory responsibility to provide safe accommodation.

7 Equality Duty

- 7.1 The equality duty was considered in the Business Case, but it is not considered that there are any implications for this report as it is a report dealing with an internal procedural matter only.

8 Social Value

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9 Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10 Human Rights Implications

- 10.1 Article 2 of the First Protocol is the right to education. No person shall be denied the right to education. The proposals therefore support this right as school places will be available in Southwater for all children of primary school age.

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Background Papers - None