

## CABINET MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2010

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

**Title of Report:**

Building Schools for the Future: Proposed Remodelling and Extension of Biddick School

**Author(s):**

Executive Director of Children's Services

**Purpose of Report:**

To seek approval to progress the remaining remodelling and extension proposals at Biddick School to provide additional space to accommodate pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the 11-16 age range and to also propose to undertake remodelling of internal space to improve music accommodation.

**Description of Decision:****Cabinet is asked to approve:**

1. that the contract with Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Limited (BBCNL) (who are currently constructing the new Biddick School Sports College teaching block) be varied to include the design and construction of the proposed ASD Centre together with remodelling of music provision to transform this key curriculum area.
2. that the developments be funded as shown in paragraphs 7.1– 7.2

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/ Policy Framework?**

Yes

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

The capital construction costs of the proposals for Biddick School Sports College have been negotiated with Balfour Beatty and costs have been based on other similar schemes in the Council's BSF Programme. The main construction works are due to be completed at the end of January 2010 with external works continuing until September 2010. The procurement method proposed for the further works is to vary the existing BSF contract for Biddick to include design and construction of the proposals as set out in this report. As the main contractor is currently working on site it is anticipated that, subject to approval, they will be in a position to commence works on the existing building in March 2010 so that pupils are able to access the new and improved provision on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

It would be possible to tender the refurbishment works as a separate project outside of the BSF Project. However there are clear advantages for this to be procured expeditiously as a variation to the existing BSF Design and Build contract.

BBCNL's costs for the above project have been tested and are able to be funded from within the available budget. Using a single contractor on site also has benefits for the management of the site during the works under the scope of the Construction (Design Management) Regulations 2007, given Health and Safety and Access arrangements are of the utmost importance.

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?** Yes

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee:**  
Children's, Young People and Learning

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

**BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: PROPOSED REMODELLING AND EXTENSION OF BIDDICK SCHOOL****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval to progress the remaining remodelling and extension proposals at Biddick School to provide additional space to accommodate pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the 11-16 age range and to also undertake remodelling of internal space to improve music accommodation.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION**

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve:
1. that the contract with Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Limited (BBCNL) (who are currently constructing the new Biddick School Sports College teaching block) be varied to include the design and construction of the proposed ASD Centre together with remodelling of music provision to transform this key curriculum area;
  2. that the developments be funded as shown in paragraphs 7.1– 7.2

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 members considered a report, which described the Stage 3 BSF/Academies Final Business Case for Biddick School Sports College. The contract sum was £14,395,991 including additional sums set aside for costs in relation to enabling works and other site specific contingencies. It was agreed that the difference between this sum and the £15.8 million available budget would be used to provide temporary accommodation and enabling works, with the balance available to pay for refurbishment works to part of the school to complete the scheme. These included the addition of an area for ASD pupils and the remodelling of music provision. The 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 report stated that the refurbishment works would be subject to a procurement by the Council at the appropriate time once the extent of the refurbishment work had been confirmed and additional funding secured.

**4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

- 4.1 The remodelling and extension proposals will be constructed on the existing site.
- 4.2 Remodelled areas and an extension will provide dedicated ASD teaching areas, tutorial rooms, student support offices and social space together with a dedicated entrance. In addition to the works to create the ASD spaces there will also be enhancements to music provision to

provide music practice rooms, ensemble room and a recording studio. Also provided as part of the remodelling works will be a new music room that will be ICT enhanced with new state of the art technology.

- 4.3 The existing buildings that are benefiting from this work will be linked to the new teaching block by a covered space that will provide opportunities for performance, creative art and recreation. The covered space is part of the main school project and when complete will result in pupils being able to access all teaching spaces without going outside the buildings.
- 4.4 The areas as detailed in this section are critical to the City Council's strategic provision for SEN (outlined in the BSF Outline Business Case approved by Cabinet in March 2007) and also the Biddick School Sports College vision where music, performing arts and sport are essential curriculum and community areas.

## **5. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 5.1 The capital construction costs of the proposals for Biddick School Sports College have been negotiated with Balfour Beatty and costs have been based on other similar schemes in the Council's BSF Programme. The main construction works are due to be completed at the end of January 2010 with external works continuing until September 2010. The procurement method proposed for these further works is to vary the existing BSF contract to include design and construction of the proposals as set out in this report. As the main contractor is currently working on site it is anticipated that, subject to approval, they will be in a position to commence works on the existing building in March 2010 so that pupils are able to access the new and improved provision on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

## **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 6.1 It would be possible to tender the refurbishment works as a separate project outside the BSF Project. However there are clear advantages for this to be procured expeditiously as a variation to the existing BSF Design and Build contract.
- 6.2 BBCNL's costs for the above project have been tested and come within the available budget. Using a single contractor on site also has benefits for the management of the site during the works under the scope of the Construction (Design Management) Regulations 2007, given Health and Safety and Access arrangements are of the utmost importance.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A full cost estimate plan for the remodelling and extension proposals for the capital works is now in place. The cost profile and funding sources are shown below:

2009/10	£120,000	(Design and Construction costs)
2010/11	£787,100	(Fees, Construction, and ICT costs)
Furniture		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£907,100</b>	

Approved Funding Sources:

Funding for the Building Schools for the Future programme includes a capital allocation to carry out part of the proposals as highlighted in 3.1 of this report. In addition to the sums available within the BSF programme it has been possible to secure additional funding that will support the changes to accommodate the ASD provision and enhance the music provision and Biddick School Sports College. Details as follows; -

Building Schools for the Future Capital Grant	£595,000
School Access Initiative Fund	£250,000
Zero Carbon Exemplar Funding	£62,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£907,100</b>

## 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The value of these additional works is below the relevant threshold for works contracts under the European Union Procurement Rules. The existing BSF Design and Build Contract for Biddick School includes a contract variation provision where the Council may procure additional works from the Contractor if necessary.

## 9. RELEVANT CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All partners have been consulted including Biddick School Sports College, Children's Services, Headteacher, Columbia Grange School, Office of the Chief Executive, Local Planning Authority.
- 9.2 Community consultation has taken place with local residents through the Local Planning Authority's consultation process

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Cabinet Report of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
10.2 BSF Outline Business Case 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
10.3 Cost Plan

