



Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	<u>The Avelon Centre</u> Award of Contract
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Robert Benham, Lead Member for Children & Learning
CMT Lead:	Tim Aldridge, Director of Children's Services
Report Author and contact details:	Andy Skeggs Head of Technical Services Andy.skeggs@onesource.co.uk 01708 433600
Policy context:	Schools expansion programme to meet increasing demand for school places.
Financial summary:	Council has approved an allocation of £1,400,000 for 16+ SEN provision.
Reason decision is Key	Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more.
Date notice given of intended decision:	10th June 2017
Relevant OSC:	Children and Learning
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part A – Report seeking decision

Key Executive Decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorisation to award a contract to Valuegrade to construct an extension to the existing 16+ SEN facility at the Avelon Road Centre.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Authority for member of CMT under Section 3 of the Constitution as follows

Contract powers

(b) To award all contracts with a total contract value of between £164,176 and £5,000,000.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Corbets Tey School at the Avelon Centre was established in September 2016, following agreement at Cabinet in 2013 for a new 16-25 provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Capital funding of £1m was agreed to build capacity to reduce the number of young people aged 16+ who are being educated in out of borough placements. Corbets Tey School shares a site with the Avelon Road Day Opportunities Centre.

The provision is currently serving students aged 16-19 years who are not able, or not yet able, to access SEND provision at Quarles College and who would have, historically, had to go out of borough to continue with their education.

Corbets Tey School at the Avelon Centre provides high quality education and skills development opportunities for young people aged 16-25 years. The provision is aspirational in supporting young people to move towards Entry Level 1 qualifications, alongside building their social and employability skills, and then onto becoming an active and contributing member of their community. The provision aims to support young people and their parents to aspire to a life which is as independent as possible and which includes some form of work, whatever this might look like for each young adult, depending on their need.

Value for money and out of borough learners:

Providing additional in-borough provision for 16-25 year olds with high levels of SEND requires significant investment but brings numerous benefits. Increasing the amount of post-16 provision for students with severe or complex needs means more young people can remain in their home environment rather than travelling to out of borough provision. By ensuring that these young people maximise their potential for independence, it will not only improve their quality of life and long-term outcomes but it is also anticipated that they will require less support from Adult Social Care in the future as a result.

A robust and comprehensive offer should allow for savings from all services:

Key Executive Decision

- Children's services: children's services are facing budget pressures due to educating increasing numbers of young people up to 25. However, there are savings to be made due to fewer young people attending expensive out of borough placements
- Adults' services: reduced reliance on adult's services as young people progress onto (supported) employment/ supported internships therefore reduced days/hours of day services
- Care: young people are able to live as independently as possible, and continue to develop appropriate levels of independence, thereby reducing reliance on services
- Health: young people are prepared for step down in adults' health provision and are better able to manage their own health (with or without support)
- Housing: young people are supported to transition into independent/ semi-independent living. Note: this may cost more initially as young people may otherwise have stayed at home. However, greater costs might have been incurred later when older adults can no longer be cared for at home and may have greater needs due to lack of independence.

Positive feedback from current users

Current students at Corbets Tey School are very happy with their provision. One student started mid-term at Corbets Tey School after their placement at Quarles broke down. Their parents were determined for the student to go to out of borough, and that Corbets Tey School was only a temporary measure. However, the student loved it so much that the parent's have asked that their child stays at Corbets Tey School., and the parents have withdrawn their appeal which was due to go to the tribunal.

Parents and carers have also spoken at parents' meetings about how pleased they are with the provision and how much their child is enjoying it. The demand for places for this September is also an indication of the success of the new provision.

Current demand/ how the provision is growing at a higher rate than predicted

The post-16 provision is linked to the Basic Needs Expansion in Havering and maximising the use of this new provision will be key to continuing to meet the increasing complexity of need within the borough. Current analysis of levels of need at Corbets Tey School demonstrate an increase in complex needs, particularly complex ASD. Children with moderate learning difficulties now make up less than 50% of the school's intake.

Already there is higher than expected demand for the post-16 provision with 16 students having been confirmed at panel to start in September 2017. This will make a total of 27 students from September. Six of the students accepted for September 2017 have significantly complex level of need which, without Corbets Tey School at the Avelon Centre would require out of borough placements costing in the region of £100,000 per student. This decision is therefore urgent to enable the accommodation to be completed as early as possible in the new academic year. The new provision will not be complete by September 2017 however contingency arrangements are being developed for a short period of time until sufficient provision is available for the anticipated intake for the new academic year.

Based on current predictions, it is estimated that the provision will continue to grow at

Key Executive Decision

a similar rate. It therefore makes more sense to develop the roof space in phase 2 while it is being built and contractors are on site, so that the building is able to meet need as early as possible and at a reduced capital cost. Accepting the new cohort of students for September is dependent on gaining the space provided by the phase 2 extension. There is insufficient space currently to accommodate all 16 of the new students. It is important that the phase 2 build is started as soon as possible, in order to meet this need.

Valuegrade has successfully completed the first phase of the works that enabled the provision to be established at short notice in September 2016. This contractor is Havering based and regularly submits the lowest and most advantageous tenders for this type of work within the borough. All contracts have been completed on time and within budget. As a local company it has demonstrated its commitment to the borough by resolving issues outside of the normal guarantee periods. Valuegrade is currently the preferred tenderer (subject to contract) for two other contracts for the Council and has indicated that it has capacity to complete all three contracts within the programme dates subject to being awarded the contract.

This particular site caters for vulnerable people and therefore requires an outstanding degree of flexibility and sensitivity. Valuegrade has demonstrated the ability to provide this and both users have provided requests that it be appointed to complete the works.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Tendering will require four months therefore assuming a contract period of 6 months, completion would not be achieved until April 2018. As such, places would not be available for the majority of those students who have been accepted for September 2017.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Detailed discussions have been held with the school, governors and members.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Andy Skeggs

Designation: Head of Technical Services

Signature:

Date: 4th May 2017

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council is a Local Education Authority within the meaning of Section 12 of the Education Act 1996 and has a general responsibility for education under Sections 13 and 14 of the Act. Such powers may be supplemented by other legislation notably the Council has a wide "general power of competence" under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which gives the same power to act as that of an individual subject to other statutory provisions limiting or restricting its use.

The Competition Financial Thresholds Exceptions Form has been signed by the Director of Children's Services and it is proposed to waive competition requirements in accordance with clause 14.6.6 *Best interests of the Council*.

Valuegrade has demonstrated value for money in terms of regularly submitting the lowest tender having completed in excess of 20 school schemes of various sizes on programme and within budget. Given the potential implications of not being able to provide places both from a local preference and financial, placing instruction with Valuegrade offers the best chance of success.

This is a key decision and therefore subject to the call-in procedure. The contract will be the JCT Design and build Contract executed under seal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

A cost of has been negotiated with Valuegrade the contractor that successfully delivered the phase 1 of the contract works.as follows;

Phase 1 construction costs	£465,698.95
Phase 2 construction costs	£802,832*
Total contract costs	£1,268,531
Fees	£126,853
Other costs incurred	
School set up costs	£81,971
Accommodation Works	£92,580
	£164,821
Allocation for FF&E & sundries	£75,000
Total	£1,644,953
Allocation approved by Council	£1,400,000

There is sufficient surplus within the schools expansion budget that will be vired within the capital transfer rules.

Sam Gable, Strategic Finance Business Partner.

Key Executive Decision

**HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS
(AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
Annessa Salmon, Schools HR Manager

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The new provision will have a positive benefit in facilitating opportunities for young people with disabilities achieve their full potential within an in borough facility.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

~~Proposal NOT agreed because~~

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Tim Aldridge

Head of Service title Executive Director for Children and Adult Services

Date: 25/5/17 .

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Andrew Beesley, Committee Administration & Interim Member Support Manager in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on 25/5/2017 .

Signed J.P.R.

Key Executive Decision