

# **MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 2022, 9.30 - 9.50 AM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families.

**In attendance:** Jackie Difolco, Assistant Director for Early Help, Prevention, and SEND; Claire Barnes, Delivery Manager; Graham Sheret, Project Manager; and Fiona Rae, Acting Committees Manager.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. HARINGEY FAMILY HUBS PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families considered the report which recommended accepting grant of up to £3,768,000 from the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care to implement the Family Hubs Programme in Haringey. Accepting grant funding will enable the implementation of the programme as described in the report and the development of four new Family Hubs for children and young people aged 0 – 19 and their families.

### **The Cabinet Member RESOLVED**

1. In accordance with Contract Standing Order 16.02 and Contract Standing Order 17.1, to approve the acceptance of grant funding from the Department of Education, the terms of which are summarised at section 6 of the report.
2. To delegate authority to agree the final grant documentation and implementation plan to the Director of Children's Services, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families.

### **Reasons for decision**

The council is committed to developing a Locality Model that is needs led, responding to resident demand, providing multi agency services that are accessible locally. The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme aligns well with this objective and will provide necessary funding to help support, design and establish local family hubs.

## **Alternative options considered**

Local Authorities can decide not to accept any offer of grant from the Department from Education and Department of Health and Social Care. However, in doing so, this would prevent the Council from being able to implement a locality model which is a key objective within our partnership strategies: Haringey Early Help Strategy and Haringey Early Years Strategy. Therefore, this option was not considered viable.

### **4. PARK VIEW SCHOOL - REPLACEMENT OF SPORTS HALL ROOF AND WALL CLADDING WITH ASSOCIATED WORKS - FURTHER VARIATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families considered the report which noted that, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Cabinet Member approved an award to Cosmure Construction (London) Ltd for Park View School up to £869,431.24. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Cabinet Member approved a variation of contract to Cosmure Construction (London) Ltd for Park View School up to £954,137.87.

It was noted that the variation of works, set out in section 4 have been approved by the Client under change control. On this basis this is a retrospective request. This report sought Cabinet Member approval to vary the contract with Cosmure Construction (London) Ltd for Park View School as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 16.02 and 10.2.1.b and as set out in section 3.

The additional works provided the Council with greater value for money by including the works within the current contract on site, as opposed to returning with a separate contract, which as a result of the current climate – construction inflation and material shortages - would likely result in inflated market rates and cause further disruption to the schools.

The Cabinet Member sought reassurance that there would be a detailed review on the outstanding works and costs. The Delivery Manager noted that there were ongoing, regular communications with all parties.

#### **The Cabinet Member RESOLVED**

1. Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02, to approve a further variation of the construction contract to Cosmure Construction (London) Ltd in the sum of £85,668.24 giving a varied contract value of £1,039,806.11.
2. To waive Contract Standing Order 3.01d and delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve any subsequent variations which may be required in the settlement of the final account up to £50,000.

#### **Reasons for decision**

The initial variation of construction supported additional condition works to replace the hall flooring, lighting (bulb replacement only) and redecoration. Works which had been discovered once the works commenced and the contractor was able to fully access

and intrusively inspect the hall flooring and lighting. Scaffolding and working crash deck in place for new mechanical works provided greater access to inspect lighting.

A further variation is requested to support additional gantry works for the air handling unit, temporary ventilation supplies over the exam period, raising the height of the new ventilation sock, fire alarm modifications, additional drainage works and adjustments to the design for damp proof membrane. These works have been approved by the Client under change control and are contained within the programme budget.

The additional works provide the Council with greater value for money by including the works within the current contract on site, as opposed to returning with a separate contract, which as a result of the current climate – construction inflation and material shortages - would likely result in inflated market rates and cause further disruption to the school.

The additional work has led to the contractor requesting further time to accommodate all additional work condition works, some of which may not have been fully considered as part of the original variation request.

The final account has not been agreed and will require to be fully evidenced to achieve the allowance requested in this report.

The Children's Capital Programme Budget is sufficient to cover this contract increase.

### **Alternative options considered**

Do nothing – a decision not to support the increase in the value of the construction works contract would leave the school with inadequate facilities to meet curriculum requirements which the community also benefit from.

Returning to the market and delivering under a separate contract was discounted as it would not offer best value to the Council due to current climate conditions – construction inflation and material shortages – this would likely result in inflated market rates and cause further disruption to the school.

## **5. SEVEN SISTERS PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING SERVICES AND EXTERNAL ENVELOPE IMPROVEMENT WORKS PHASE 1 & 2 - VARIATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, and Families considered the report which noted that, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the Cabinet Member approved an award to Mulalley & Company Ltd for Seven Sisters Primary School Phase 1 in the sum of £1,233,949.00. This contract award was varied on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to £1,366,875.00 by the Cabinet Member. On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Cabinet Member approved an award to Mulalley & Company Ltd for Seven Sisters Primary School Phase 2 in the sum of £1,264,690.60.

This report sought approval to vary both contracts to Mulalley & Company Ltd as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.2.1.b and (CSO) 16.02.

The additional works provided the Council with greater value for money by including the works within the current contract on site, as opposed to returning with a separate contract, which as a result of the current climate – construction inflation and material shortages - would likely result in inflated market rates and cause further disruption to the schools.

The Cabinet Member asked about the timescale for the project. The Project Manager noted that some works to the water supply needed to be undertaken after the school term finished but the completion date was due to be 21 December 2022. The Cabinet Member noted that the additional costs had been generated by additional works including asbestos removal and it was acknowledged that this was necessary. The Cabinet Member commented that issues such as asbestos were not surprising with older buildings and it was suggested that future reports for school works could include this as a likely possibility.

### **The Cabinet Member RESOLVED**

Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02, to vary the following construction contract awards:

- (i) To approve a further variation of the construction contract for Seven Sisters Primary School Phase 1 to Mulalley & Company Ltd in the sum of £263,125.00 giving a varied contract value from £1,366,875.00 to £1,630,000.00.
- (ii) To approve a variation of the construction contract for Seven Sisters Primary School Phase 2 to Mulalley & Company Ltd in the sum of £58,288.00, giving a varied contract value from £1,264,690.40 to £1,322,978.00.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve any subsequent variations which may be required in the settlement of the final account up to £50,000 for each Phase of the project.

### **Reasons for decision**

During construction of Phase 1, additional condition works were identified which included remedial works to address additional pipework, asbestos removal and additional works to aluminium window reveals.

The additional work has led to the contractor requesting further time to accommodate the additional works, some of which may not have been fully considered as part of the original variation request for Phase 1.

Phase 2 works experienced additional works to windows roofs and asbestos. As with Phase 1 this has resulted in the contractor requesting further time to accommodate the additional works.

Whilst elements of cost are yet to be fully evidenced and agreed, these variations of contracts are expected to be sufficient to settle the final accounts.

### **Alternative options considered**

Do nothing – a decision not to support the increase in the value of the construction works contract will result in delays in completing urgent condition works and leave the Council unable to fulfil its contractual obligations with regard to payments to the contractor. Design changes have been agreed via strict change control processes and can be supported by the project budgets. ‘permanent’ heating system.

Returning to the market and delivering under a separate contract was discounted as would not offer best value to the Council due to current climate conditions – construction inflation and material shortages – this would likely result in inflated market rates and cause further disruption to the school. This would also cause further delays as it is unlikely that a new contractor could be procured and commence works before the existing contractor had completed the additional work.

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Brabazon

Signed by Cabinet Member .....

Date ...2 December 2022.....

This page is intentionally left blank