



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ISLWYN WEST SECONDARY SCHOOL (IWSS) - UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the new Islwyn West Secondary School.
- 1.2 This update report is accompanied with a presentation by the Headteacher, Mr. Tim Williams.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The new secondary school is being delivered as part of the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme and meets both the Welsh Government and CCBC's programme aims.

3. THE REPORT

Progress to Date

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report on 17 June 2015 which agreed the target cost for the initial 900 place (plus 50 Special Resource Base [SRB]) project.
- 3.2 The project will be managed by AECOM and the contractor is Willmott Dixon.
- 3.3 CCBC signed the contract for the project on 7 July 2015.
- 3.4 The project commenced on site on 3 August 2015 and the anticipated project completion date is 23 April 2017. The contractor has established a site compound and soil excavations are progressing.
- 3.5 The Welsh Government (WG) approved a permanent build extension on 11 June 2015, following a bid by CCBC. The bid approved amount of £1.5m will be funded 50/50 between CCBC and WG.
- 3.6 Planning Committee, at its meeting on 5 August 2015, considered and approved the planning application for the extension.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was conducted as part of the formal consultation process for the new school.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The anticipated total project cost (prior to consideration of the extension) amounts to £23,840,708.84.
- 5.2 The cost of the extension is yet to be finalised. CCBC's notional 50% of the bid amount (750k) was approved to be met from Education balances at Cabinet on 29 July 2015.
- 5.3 The Cabinet report of 1 October 2014 recommended a target cost approach to the contract sum. A 'pain/gain' mechanism is prescribed in the options included within Lot 4 of the SEWSCAP framework and subsequently included in the ITT sent to all contractors.
- 5.4 Schedule 6 of the NEC option C SEWSCAP conditions of contract makes provision for the financial pain and gain to be apportioned between the Contractor and the Authority. The agreed mechanism is as follows:

<u>Actual Cost as % of Target Cost</u>	<u>Contractor's share of difference</u>	<u>Authority's share of difference</u>
less than 90%	5% of target cost plus 0% of any further underspend	5% of target cost plus 100% of any further underspend
90% to 100%	50% of underspend	50% of underspend
100% to 110%	50% of overspend	50% of overspend
greater than 110%	5% of target cost plus 100% of any further overspend	5% of target cost plus 0% of any further overspend

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be personnel implications in relation to staff from the existing Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools. A Council officer working group has been established and will meet regularly with the Headteacher to monitor progress. These meetings will also include discussions with support staff associations.
- 6.2 AECOM has been appointed as project manager and will facilitate regular user group meetings with the contractor and CCBC as client.
- 6.3 An education consultant was appointed to co-ordinate a range of curriculum matters and consultations took place with the staff. An independent curriculum analysis was also undertaken to ensure the design was sufficient in size and this was confirmed.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 Initial consultation has taken place with the staff of the two existing schools and some governors of the shadow governing body.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members are requested to note progress in relation to the new IWSS school project. Further update reports will be produced periodically.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To ensure members are aware of current progress on the project.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendix 1. Presentation prepared by Tim Williams.