

CALL IN REQUEST

Date of decision publication: **Friday 26th June 2020**

Executive Board Minute no: **10 (a); (b); (c); and (e) only.**

Decision description: **Learning Places Design & Cost Report School Places Delivery September 2020 (Item 11, Executive Board, 24th June 2020).**

Discussion with Decision Maker:

Prior to submitting a Call In, a nominated signatory must first contact the relevant officer or Executive Member to discuss their concerns and their reasons for wanting to call in the decision. Part of this discussion must include the Member ascertaining the financial implications of requesting a Call In.

Please identify contact and provide detail.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director/author of delegated decision report.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Board Member

Detail of discussion (to include financial implications)

Cllr Ryan Stephenson held a meeting on Wednesday 24th June 2020 with the Executive Member for Children & Families (Councillor Jonathan Pryor), Director of Children & Families (Sal Tariq), Chief Officer Resources & Strategy (Tim Pouncey) and Head of Programmes and Projects (Jane Walne); and a further meeting on Monday 29th June 2020 with the Head of Service for Learning Systems (Vivienne Buckland), Head of Programmes and Projects (Jane Walne) and Senior Project Manager for City Development (Adele Robinson).

Officers reported that approval to incur up to £435k in design fees across the whole lifetime of the project was approved by the Children & Families directorate. To date expenditure on fees totalled £277k. Furthermore, prior to Executive Board approval a letter of intent was sent to Portakabin so they could place orders for the materials required. The materials procurement order and design works associated with this work is costed at £680k. It was noted that if Executive Board had not approved the recommendations on Wednesday 24th June the authority would have had two options: be liable for a cancellation charge for a large chunk of the £680k; or negotiate to move the order on to another project and avoid cancellation charges (delays in the delivery of the Lawrence Calvert Free Schools means the Council will be required to place a similar order for additional modular building next year to accommodate the 2021/22 cohort). If no changes are proposed to the scheme by Executive Board estimated delays in manufacturing, storing and remobilising construction are calculated at around £184k. After detailed discussions, it was noted that the call-in period for this key decision ends on Friday 3rd July and the next Scrutiny Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th July, based on this timeframe, if no further spending commitments or cost savings are recommended by the Scrutiny Board, the Council would need to renegotiate the order by three days, accepting that a financial liability could be around £4k depending on the success of those negotiations.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

Reasons for Call In:

All requests for Call In must detail why, in the opinion of the signatories, the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 of the Council constitution (decision making) (principles of decision making) or where relevant issues do not appear to be taken into consideration. *Please tick the relevant box(es) and give an explanation.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proportionality (ie the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect for human rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	A presumption in favour of openness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of aims and desired outcomes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An explanation of the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive promotion of equal opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural justice

Explanation:

The Executive Board decision to spend £6,835,000 to provide additional capacity for a one-off bulge cohort of 60 pupils at Cockburn Academy is disproportionate to the desired outcome.

In comparison, the Council's own internal assessment suggest that both Royds and Wetherby secondary schools could be rebuilt at a cost of around £20-30 million each. Similarly, the Executive Board approved £20-25 million for a full rebuild to accommodate 1,500 children (including a 275-pupil expansion) at Benton Park in February 2019. Members are therefore asked to scrutinise whether a spend of circa. £7 million for a one-off bulge cohort of just 60 pupils is proportionate to the outcome.

Furthermore, the Council has already made the following financial commitments to the Cockburn Multi-Academy Trust in recent years: £1.56m approved in April 2017 to expand Cockburn Academy by 1FE; £2.28m approved in September 2019 to expand Cockburn John Charles Academy by 1FE; and now a further £6.895m for another 1FE one-off bulge cohort at Cockburn Academy - a culminative total of £10.735 million. In comparison, across all other high schools in South Leeds the Council contributed £280,000; a match-funded contribution toward accommodating a bulge cohort of 40 pupils at Bruntcliffe Academy.

Basic Needs Grant funding is intended to address sufficiency of school places. The Executive Board's decision to acquire new community playing fields on the former South Leeds golf course, and the development of additional facilities for the school, as part of this financial commitment requires further scrutiny.

Finally, the Executive Board report did not include an explanation of the options considered. The Children & Families Scrutiny Board is therefore asked to consider the application of Basic Needs Grant funding and its proportionality to the desired outcome, as well as the options considered and details of the reasons for the decision.

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

A Call In request may be made by a **minimum** of:

5 non-executive Members of council from the **same political group**;

or;

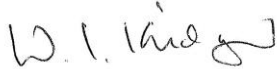
2 non-executive Members of council if **they are not from the same political group**.

This Call In request should be submitted to Scrutiny Support, 1st Floor West, Civic Hall by 5.00pm by no later than the fifth working day after the decision publication date. The following signatories (**original signatures only**) request that the above decision be called in.

Nominated Signatory



Councillor Ryan Stephenson
Conservative Group



Councillor Wyn Kidger
Morley Borough Independents Group



Councillor Mark Dobson
Garforth & Swillington Independent Group

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Support

For office use only: (box A)

Received on behalf of the Head of Democratic Services by:



(signature)

Date: 30th June 2020 Time: 1.45 pm

SSU ref: 2020/21-10/71

For office use only: (box B)

Exemption status checked:

Call In authorised: Yes

Date checked:

Signed:



Signatures checked:

Date: 30th June 2020

Receipts given:

Validity re article 13