

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Vicky Gent, Director of Children’s Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Jenna Douthwaite, Senior Corporate Procurement and Projects Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	3 May 2023

Highfurlong School Extension

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To approve the appointment of Conlon Construction Ltd [Preston] as the contractor for the construction of the Highfurlong School extension.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the appointment of Conlon Construction Ltd as the contractor for the construction of the Highfurlong School extension. The contract is for a period of 12 months with an anticipated commencement date of May 2023.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

A competitive tendering exercise was undertaken during February – March 2023 to select a contractor to construct the school extension. The Council invited tenders through its e-tendering portal (The Chest), using a Procure Partnerships Framework (Procure North West) in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

An expression of interest was issued to nine framework contractors and returned by four contractors. These four contractors were then invited to tender for the works through a single stage mini-competition process. One bidder withdrew during the process and tenders were received by three bidders.

Following completion of the evaluation Conlon Construction Ltd provided the best overall tender for the requirement and it is the Council’s intention to enter into a formal agreement.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

This recommendation is subject to value engineering work to be undertaken prior to contract award at no cost to the Council to bring the cost of the scheme in line with the funding envelope.

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

N/A

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

The aim of this project is to provide a new teaching block at the existing Highfurlong School so that the school has adequate capacity to meet the needs of current and prospective pupils. Teaching space will also be created for pupils over the age of 16 to allow them to develop life skills in the transition stage to adulthood. The project will also see the creation of a café space on the ground floor, it is envisaged that this will predominantly be staffed by pupils and will also serve as an out of hours community centre that past and present pupils can visit. The project will be funded by Blackpool Council.

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Provide a new school building that will allow Highfurlong School to meet the needs of its current and future cohort of students.
2. Provide a new café space on the ground floor that can be used as a community hub for past and present pupils along with local community groups.
3. Make good use of financial resources by delivering a cost effective development;

and,

4. Support the local economy by maximising the use of locally-based building contractors and local labour, and by providing training opportunities to young people in the area.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

N/A

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The procurement exercise has been carried out in line with the Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015 and authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into a formal contract with the successful supplier.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 Consideration has been given as to whether there could be unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The scheme costs will be met from approved budget, subject to the stipulation included at paragraph 3.2b above.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None identified.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The supplier has signed the Council's Supplier Charter which includes a commitment to consider how they can make a positive contribution to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Blackpool in order to help achieve the Council's priorities.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Key internal and external stakeholders were engaged on the evaluation panel including representatives from the Council, Highfurlong School and the project design team.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the appointment of Conlon Construction Ltd.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The contractor named above has demonstrated that they can meet the Council's requirements and provided the most economically advantageous tender based on the combination of quality, price, and social value.