



Report to Cabinet Member for Achievement and Learning & Resources

Decision to be taken on or after 23 May

Decision can normally be implemented at least 3 working days after decision has been signed.

Cabinet Member Report No. AL09.07

There is an exempt appendix to this report, exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Title: Wycombe West Schools Amalgamation – Closure of Account

Date: 11 May 2007

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Electoral Divisions Affected: Stokenchurch, Radnage and West Wycombe Downley, Disraeli, Oakridge and Castlefield

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children's Services

Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council commissioned work to be undertaken to amalgamate Wycombe West Mainstream and Special Needs Schools in Faulkner Way, Downley, High Wycombe. The project started on site on 7 August 2000 and reached Practical Completion on 5 April 2002. Protracted negotiations have taken place since 2002 over the final closure of the account for the building works. The Council's agent, Jacobs UK Ltd. advised a financial settlement. This paper recommends the payment of the final account as advised by Jacobs UK Ltd.

Recommendation

that the closure of the account for Wycombe West Schools amalgamation be agreed, up to a certain limit, as set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

BCC commissioned work in 2000 to amalgamate Wycombe West Mainstream and Special Needs schools in Faulkner Way, Downley, High Wycombe. The work on the project reached Practical Completion in April 2002. Protracted negotiations have taken place since 2002 to resolve the outstanding payments and close the account and no settlement has yet been agreed. Audit identified that no resolution and no contingent liability had been made for this project. A report was commissioned in November 2006 to clarify the level of liability.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

The outstanding amount needs to be paid as the County will be in breach of contract with the contractor.

C. Resource implications

No contingent liability has been set out for this amalgamation and the costs of closing the final account will be managed within the portfolio.

D. Value For Money (VFM) Self Assessment

This is the closure of a financial account from 2002 and therefore a value for money self-assessment is not appropriate.

E. Legal implications

Advice has been sought from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services who is in agreement that the amount should be paid and the account closed.

F. Property implications

There are no further property implications as they were resolved in 2002.

G. Other implications/issues

None

H. Feedback from consultation and Local Member views

This matter has not been subject to consultation as it is an outstanding financial payment.

I. Communication issues

The contractor will be informed of the decision.

J. Progress Monitoring

Not applicable.

K. Review

Not applicable.

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 22 May 2007. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 383610), Fax (to 01296 382538), or e-mail to cabinet@buckscc.gov.uk