

25 NOVEMBER 2022

Report Title:	INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY DOUBLE MOBILE CLASSROOM AT RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WALLASEY
Report of:	HEAD OF SERVICE, ASSET MANAGEMENT

REPORT SUMMARY

This report requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place agrees to award a construction contract to Springfield Mobile (Lancs) Ltd. The contract will allow for the rental of a double mobile classroom for a 104 week period by the Riverside Primary School, Wallasey (“the school”). Due to an increase in Special Educational Needs (“SEND”) pupils at the school additional classroom capacity is required prior to the proposed rebuild programme at the school.

The decision supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2021 – 2026 Brighter Futures theme by working together for brighter futures for our children, young people and their families by breaking the cycle of poor outcomes for all regardless of their background.

This decision affects the Seacombe Ward. This is not a Key Decision.

Appendix 1 of this report is not for Publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATION

The Director of Regeneration is recommended to approve the approve that Springfield Mobiles (Lancs) Ltd be awarded the contract for the supply and installation of a temporary double mobile classroom at Riverside Primary School, Wallasey within approved budget and as the highest scoring tenderer in accordance with the lowest fixed price criteria.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Due to an increase in SEND pupils at the school additional classroom capacity is required prior to the proposed rebuild programme at the school. The hire period of the additional accommodation will ensure that safe and sufficient learning space is provided to all pupils at the school.
- 1.2 A detailed specification of requirements was issued in October 2022 and tendering exercise undertaken. Five bids were received. The bids were scored on a fixed price basis with Springfield Mobile (Lancs) Ltd meeting the necessary criteria and submitting the lowest fixed price tender.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Increasing SEND pupils at the school have necessitated additional capacity within the existing school building. The only alternative to the provision of temporary additional capacity would be to facilitate a temporary move of pupils to alternative schools. This option has been discounted due to the disruption this would cause to pupils and parents.
- 2.2 Temporary classrooms are considered the best option prior to the new facility being completed.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 During the last school year, the pupil numbers rose to 277 on the school roll.
- 3.2 In 2020-2021, 25% of pupils in Wirral primary schools and 33.2% of pupils in Wirral secondary schools with special educational needs and disabilities had Social Emotional and Mental Health ("SEMH") as their primary need, compared with an average of 16.5% in primary schools and 22.4% in secondary schools in England.
- 3.3 From September 2022 the school gained an additional Local Authority funded SEMH base.
- 3.4 The school's accommodation is inadequate for the provision it is required to offer. This has resulted in:
 - a) Staff giving up their staff room;
 - b) Children being taught in corridors;
 - c) The Head giving up her office so lessons and social services meetings can take place; and
 - d) The Year 4 class being educated in the dining hall which doubles up for the sports hall, which means the hall is not available for lunches or indoor PE.

- 3.5 A proposal for a new school building has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE) but is still at the earliest stages of concept. The school is at a point whereby not having adequate teaching space and, in the meantime, would affect the functionality and safeguarding at the school.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the project is being met from the Department for Education grant for “High Needs” special education support.
- 4.2 A total of 7 companies were included within the tender process
- 4.3 Tenders were received on a fixed price basis. Fees associated with this project are £14,473.70 for professional fees, clerk of works, and CDM Regulations.
- 4.4 Exempt financial details contained within Appendix 1 of this report are not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The commission of the services detailed in this report have been undertaken in accordance with The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The award of this contract is being made on lowest tender basis. The Council’s Contract Procedure rules set out how contracts are to be awarded by the Council in accordance with the Procurement Strategy requirements and these rules have been complied within during the tendering process.
- 5.3 The award will be underpinned by a formal contract which will be drawn up by the Council’s legal team. This will provide for a contract with a term of 104 weeks for the supply and installation and rental of a temporary double classroom.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct staffing and ICT implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The mobile classrooms will add temporary capacity to school until the completion of the new school development.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to deliver this project for the start of 2023 would have a serious impact on teaching within the school and related safeguarding issues. Should this target date not be reached then contingency arrangements would have to be implemented.
- 7.2 Site safety risks were assessed prior to the tender process starting and this influenced the scope of the contract. The project will be managed under The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations.
- 7.3 Steps have been taken to ensure that the location of the temporary accommodation will not have any impact on the future development of the site.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Engagement has been carried out with several technical and education officers at design of specification stage, followed by consultation with members of the school staff and governing body.
- 8.2 Full Planning approval has been obtained for the temporary classrooms.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity.
- 9.2 The delivery of this project will ensure that children's disabilities are met within the area and within a facility that meets their special needs.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This proposal has limited environment and climate implications. The classrooms are a temporary solution with the units removed from site at the end of the fixed term contract.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This proposal has limited community wealth implications due to the nature of the temporary solution.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Exempt Financial details

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Tender Specification
Submitted bids from the bidders (exempt from publication).

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee (Q2 Capital Monitoring)	09/11/2022