

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL, 7 Oct 2010

UPDATE ON THE LITTLE BUILD

1. BACKGROUND

The Better Schools for All Strategy was approved by Cabinet and Council in Summer 2008 with DCSF approval in November 2008 releasing total grant funding of £ 12.9m, some of which has to be spent by 31st August 2011.

- a. The Little Build is the project to rebuild Oakham Church of England Primary School within the allocated budget of £7.583,148

2. VISION

In June 2009, approval of a 'soft federation' of The Parks Schools and Oakham CofE Primary extended the project to include a rebuild of The Parks, The Family Centre and a small therapy/learner pool.

3. PLANNING APPLICATION

The Planning Application was approved on 27 Apr 2010.

The only change imposed was the closure of the pedestrian entrance from Queens Rd.

4. DESIGN

- a. A Core Design Group representing the two Schools, Capital Projects, Architects and Constructors developed the outline design for the site and building layout.
- b. The Core Design Group continues to meet to finalise interior and exterior finishes and operational details..

5. FUNDING

- a. A reduction in the Targeted Capital Fund grant was notified to RCC just prior to contract agreement, reducing the available funding to £7,454,848. This required some Value Engineering to effect a reduction in Contracted Target Price to £6,575,284.
- b. Contract with Willmott Dixon was signed by RCC 29 July

6. CONSTRUCTION

- a. Site pre-works were completed during July 2010. This comprised the installation of 3 temporary classrooms and relocation of the existing SEN mobile unit. Teachers fitted-out their classrooms during the holidays, ready for pupils to start the new school year in them.
- b. Full construction commenced on 11 Aug 2010 with the demolition of the single-storey wing adjoining the Hall.
- c. Main construction is well underway and will be done in 3 closely-successive phases.
 - Foundation-wing base has been concreted and timber frame is being erected
 - Main Hall section base has been concreted, timber frame will follow during October
 - Teaching-wing base has been levelled, concreting will be done during October with timber frame to follow.
- d. Completion of the new building is on-schedule for July 2011, so that fit-out and commissioning will be completed ready for occupation at the start of Sept 2011 term. The temporary classrooms will be removed during the July/Aug 2011 holiday, allowing work on the carpark to commence
- e. Demolition of the existing school will take place Sept /Oct 2011, followed by completion of car park and landscaping on the original school site.