

# Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

**Estates & Free Schools**

**Report to the Trust Board**

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**June 2019**

## **Clearwater Academy Temporary Accommodation**

Remodelling Works have now started at Olympus Park (OP) which will be the new temporary site for Clearwater Academy from September 2019. The winning contractor was Beards and whilst the program remains tight we are confident of successful completion to enable occupation by the school in time for the new term in September. There are number of aspects that we are coordinating currently namely: -

- The removals of the school furniture and goods from Hardwicke to OP
- The removal and reinstatement of the server
- The installation of the broadband
- The ordering of the ICT equipment for 2019/20
- The ordering of furniture for 2019/20
- The removal of the Portakabins from Hardwicke
- The reinstatement of the Hardwicke site

The dates for the move is dependent on a successful delivery of the program of works at OP and so remain to be confirmed pending the next progress meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## **School Condition Allowance. (SCA)**

Following on from the recommendations of the last meeting the following actions have taken place.

Rob Jones has now completed the SCA update visits at all the schools as outlined at the previous meeting. The purpose was to meet with Head Teachers to:-

- Review the recent survey
- Ensure that Head teachers are able to access and navigate the estates portal.
- Convey the recommendations of the Estates committee in terms of its 2019/20 spending decisions.
- Discuss the school priorities for the use of their devolved formula capital.

This served the purpose of informing the Head teachers in respect of future years capital spend element of their budgets and also provided the school with an overview of their maintenance and premises priorities over the coming years. The meetings went very well with some very positive feedback about the surveys and portal. The transparent nature of the data significantly helps the schools appreciate their own priorities within a trust wide context.

Project planning is currently being undertaken on all the recommended projects to be funded from the SCA. The largest project which is the demolition at Dursley is underway with surveys complete and tendering issued. We are keen to demolish in the Summer holidays and are currently on track to complete this. All other projects are currently underway in terms of planning and obtaining the appropriate technical support and a program of works will be provided at the next committee meeting.

## **Winchcombe project.**

As previously reported the local authority (LA) approached us to explore the feasibility of expanding the PAN at Winchcombe C of E Primary to meet the shortage of school places in the area. The plan was originally that the LA would provide DGAT with the funds to deliver a project and that DGAT would oversee and manage the works. To this end architects and cost surveyor were engaged to develop a costed scheme of works to deliver the extra places whilst enhancing the school environment for current pupils.

It had come to our attention however that a possible change of internal administration procedures at the LA might mean that they would retain ownership of the project appoint a contractor from their framework. This would potentially mean that the design that DGAT and the school had signed off on might be lost with any new contractor having to tender out the architecture as part of a design and build contract. On 14<sup>th</sup> May Rob Jones met with the Brian Storer, Gareth Vine and Paul Wakeman of the LA to discuss the scheme. The design was presented by DGAT's architects and the costings explained by our Quantity Surveyor.

An original budget allocation of £1.5M was earmarked for a scheme with the costed scheme as presented at £2.2M. It was universally recognised however that the initial budget amount was an initial estimate that was not based on a full understanding of the complex site. The LA did explain that all projects for 2019/20 that have been listed in cabinet papers (as this had), it would be delivered by the LA's own framework and to this end Kiers have been appointed. We put the case forward strongly that if this was the case the current design should be the one that is novated to Kier and therefore our architects and QS likewise. This was widely accepted to be the way forward so that more time is not lost and the detailed understanding of the site and its archaeological restrictions is brought forward into the project. The shortage in funding will be addressed by Gareth Vine at the LA who will make the appropriate requests for additional funding. A further meeting is being held at Kiers offices on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

## **PS Assets Update**

Our new central Management Information System, PS Assets has been fully built and is now live. Training for the Business Managers was delivered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the SBM forum. Support visits are planned for September and their use will be monitored to identify and assist schools that are failing to use the system to its fullest extent. The system provided by PS Financials will assist the Schools in the Trust with their organisation of premises compliance and provide the trustees with a live dashboard of compliance levels across the schools. Log-ins will be available to Trustees to enable real time access to compliance levels across the Trust Schools.

## **Health and Safety**

There has been one RIDDOR reportable incident since the last Meeting in April. A pupil at Fieldcourt C of E Infant Academy sustained a finger injury on the perimeter fencing which initially resulted in a partial amputation of the top of a finger. The RIDDOR report resulted in contact and a subsequent visit from the Health and Safety executive. Rob Jones attended the meeting with the Headteacher.

The fencing was installed by the local authority approximately 15 years ago and is 1.8M in height. Current standards would require fencing to be installed at 2.1M. The outcome of the investigation is pending however the inspector gave every indication that no further action would be taken and that there would be no recommendation to replace the fencing to modern standards, but some maintenance and management advice would be issued. The school has already put into place control measures to mitigate the risk of further incidents. A review of the suitability of our fencing trust wide is being carried out and will be viewed in line with the recommendations from the HSE (once published) and will be reported to the next Estates and Free school committee.

In addition, the recommendations will be shared with Rob Stephens of the DBE to ensure that the non-trust schools are aware of any guidance issued as a result of the investigation.

Schools continue to outsource their Health and Safety support to the local authority SHE unit who offer ongoing support as well as three year rolling audit program.

### **Dursley Capital Works**

As previously reported, Sec 106 works are complete, and Rob Jones will meet with the Head and Contractors to sign off on Phase one of the project which has significantly improved and expanded on the current reception area and create further classroom provision. Phase 2 of the project will continue in line with further funding timetables by the local authority.