

# Decision of the Leader of the Council

Wednesday 1 September 2021

## Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made

## Decision in relation to: Workplace Vision Phase 7A&B

The Leader of the Council, acting in accordance with his authority:

### Agreed:-

That approval is given for £1.490m to be brought forward from future years' budgets (£0.734m from 2022/23 and £0.756m from 2023/24) funded from available capital receipts.

## Reason for Decision

Additional costs in relation to the Workplace Vision works have arisen due to:

- Build cost inflation
- The need to accelerate the work programme to meet the requirements of service areas returning to work post-Covid.
- The need to provide additional technology to enable flexible working post-Covid.
- Additional works arising from changes to the original plans which were not in the original budgets.

Overbury were procured and appointed as the main contractor in 2019 from the construction West Midlands Framework. Now that they are already on site it is important for the Council to issue instructions for each phase promptly and without delay in order that they can programme resources. Failure to do this will cause increases in site running costs and risks significant delays.

By bringing forward to 2021/22 an additional £1.49m of budget to enable the contract award to Overbury for Phase 7A&B, within the Construction West Midlands framework contract, in addition to the £2m budget increase set out in the Q1 Budget Monitoring Report, the overall programme budget for Workplace Vision will not increase.



## **Alternative Options considered and discounted**

The Council could delay the Phase 7A&B until next financial year. The Workplace Vision of new ways of working will not be implemented fully in Sandwell Council House this year; staff are due to come back, in line with the Council's new operating principals, from the end of January 2022. Any delay in this scheduled return however would impact on service delivery moving forward.

In addition, any delay in approving Phase 7A&B would have an impact on being able to retain our current contractor and them being able to remobilise required resources to support a programme which provides completion of these current Phases in time to suit wider Council restart of services. There is also an industry cost rise set for the 1st September 2021 where material price increases are due which would impact on current costs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rajbir Singh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

### **Signature**

Leader of the Council  
Councillor Rajbir Singh

**Date of Decision: 1 September 2021**