

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) A virement for £15,000 from 2020/21 capital contingency budget for the five year fixed electrical remedial work be agreed;
- b) An exception to the Council's contract standing orders be approved due to the urgent nature of these works and to meet health and safety regulations

Purpose

To expedite the completion of fixed electrical remedial works at Bishops College.

The Project

Under current Health and Safety legislation the fixed electrical wiring needs to be fully tested every five years and a satisfactory certificate issued upon action of remedial works. The latest inspection took place between February and June 2020.

A capital bid was previously approved for testing and some remedial works which may be required following this testing. However, the amount requested was insufficient for the number of failures that have been identified.

To enable a satisfactory certificate to be issued, failures that are identified from the testing need to be addressed. At Bishops College a total of 436 failures have been highlighted and require remedial action.

Each failure is assigned a code depending on its severity. The numbers found and description of each are as follows

- C1 (Danger present. Risk of injury. Immediate remedial action required)
No. of failures – 1 (rectified by engineer, completed)
- C2 (Potentially dangerous - urgent remedial action required)
No. of failures - 69
- C3 (Improvement recommended)
No. of failures - 335
- FI (Further investigation required without delay)
No. of failures - 31

To enable a satisfactory pass C1, C2 and FI failures need to be rectified. C3 failures are a recommendation, however, due to the number recorded at Bishops College a satisfactory pass cannot be issued unless they are brought up to date with the current 18th edition of BS 7671:2018 Requirements for Electrical Installations, IET Wiring Regulations.

With the current COVID 19 pandemic and guidelines recommending working from home now is the best time to complete these works as it will cause the least disruption on site when shutting off the power to specific areas to rectify faults.

Due to urgency it is requested for an exception to the Council's contract standing orders under Health and Safety. A satisfactory certificate is required under Health and Safety legislation and for insurance purposes. Completing works whilst there are limited numbers of staff on site will also reduce the overall cost.

An urgent estimate from an approved contractor – B&M Electrical – for £15,000 has been received to carry out all remedial works.

Works Programme

To complete all remedial actions from the five year fixed electrical testing at Bishops College. Projected timeline is estimated at six weeks from the appointment of the contractor approval.

Financial, Legal and Risk Management Implications

The Council will be failing under Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and Workplace Regulations 1992 if failures are not rectified within a reasonable timeframe.

There is a risk of invalidating insurance without a satisfactory certificate for electrical safety.

These works, costing £15,000, have not been forecast in the current 2020/21 financial year and funding is required from capital contingency budget. There is currently £82,000 budget available in Capital Contingency.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Considered all options.

Contribution to the Council's Objectives

Meet Council service standards and deliver good customer care.

Manage the Council's assets efficiently to maximise returns and contribute to Council priorities.

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Date: 13/10/2020

Action reported to the Cabinet on:
