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**Report to:** West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee

**Date:** 4 July 2018

**Subject:** **Kirklees College Update**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update Members on the current status of the Dewsbury Learning Quarter Skills Capital Project.
- 1.2 To seek endorsement of the 'intention' to release monies from the Combined Authority held escrow account for the immediate completion of the Springfield Centre and thereafter for works at Pioneer House.

## **2. Information**

- 2.1. The Dewsbury Learning Quarter (DLQ) Project consists of two separate elements:
  - A new build Springfield Centre; and
  - Pioneer House, which includes extensive landlord works by Kirklees Council followed by fit out from Kirklees College.
- 2.2. **Springfield Centre.** Practical completion of the Springfield Centre was achieved in March 2018. The fit out works are underway and will complete by September 2018, when the Centre is due to be open for students.
- 2.3. **Pioneer House.** Due to a number of issues on site, delays have occurred on the Pioneer House element of the DLQ project. This is now back on track to complete in autumn 2020.
- 2.4. In May 2018, the College sold a property (called Highfields Annex). This property was security against the potential loan for the completion of the DLQ project. However, it is important to note that the loan has not been taken up at

this stage and is due to be drawn down to support the fit-out costs of Pioneer House.

- 2.5. The Combined Authority agreed to lift the charge on Highfields and Kirklees College agreed to the sale monies being placed into an escrow account to be held by the Combined Authority with the intention of ensuring the immediate completion of Springfield Centre and thereafter for works at Pioneer House.
- 2.6. It is recommended that members endorse the intention to release monies from the Combined Authority held escrow account for the immediate completion of the Springfield Centre and thereafter for works at Pioneer House. This ensures that Springfield Centre will complete by 2018 and the outputs associated with this centre will be realised. This is an ultra-modern, purpose built facility that will host courses that are aimed predominantly at 16-18 year olds.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The financial implications are explained in exempt Appendix 1; however there are no direct financial implications on the Combined Authority budget.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The information contained in Appendix 1, is exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the content of the appendix as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as publication could prejudice current and future decision making.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications

### **6. External Consultees**

None

### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 It is recommended that members endorse the intention to release monies (through delegation to the Combined Authority's Managing Director) from the Combined Authority held escrow account for the immediate completion of the Springfield Centre and thereafter for works at Pioneer House, as detailed in exempt Appendix 1.

### **8. Background Documents**

None.

**9. Appendices –**

EXEMPT - Appendix 1 – Pioneer House - Financial/Programme Update.