**WOODLANDS MEED COLLEGE NEW BUILD**

This project involves the design and construction of a replacement Woodlands Meed College, in compliance with BB104, in Birchwood Grove Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0DP and the subsequent demolition of the existing facility. The existing College will remain open and fully operational until the new College is available for occupation. The neighbouring Birchwood Grove County Primary School will also remain open and fully operational during the construction and demolition works at Woodlands Meed College.

A feasibility study has been undertaken to identify the best location for the new

College within the existing grounds (*Figure 1).* The proposed new College has been positioned wholly on the playing field site to allow the current College building to stay in operation throughout the construction. The sloping nature of the playing field site means that significant cut and fill will need to be undertaken on the site to support a fully accessible College and external sport facilities.

The current proposal is predicated on classroom clusters in wings and the main communal and shared facilities in a central block. Access directly to the outside from classrooms is a key consideration given the nature of the young people. We have looked at a range of sports pitches across the site, but this needs to be further explored at the next stage to ensure they meet the needs of the College and community fully. We are proposing that the contractor access will be via the Birchwood Grove Primary School site. We are seeking to retain the existing car park.

The drop off and pick up in the longer term will be retained via the shared driveway with Birchwood Grove Primary School but access will be slightly adjusted to where it is now. The proposed new building will be predominantly two storeys with a single storey classroom cluster at the west of the site to take advantage of the levels.

*Figure 1: Feasibility Site Plan*



Legend:

MUGA = Multi Use Games Area

ATP = Artificial Turf Pitch

WSCC are working closely with the College, by holding monthly Project Board (refer to description below) meetings and where necessary, College Engagement Meetings. The vision for the new Woodlands Meed College is to deliver an inspirational and flexible building, compliant with Building Bulletin 104, that is a safe, secure and happy learning environment for both pupils and staff.

***The project board*** *is primarily a decision-making body. Their role is to keep the project moving forward by solving problems that can block its progress and helping the project manager see a clear route to successful completion. Throughout a project, the project manager may put recommendations to the board.*

***College Engagement Meetings*** *will be held throughout the design phase between the project design team and the school. This allows the design team to work together with the school to design a building that is compliant and fit for purpose.*

PROJECT UPDATE AUGUST 2020

The project has proceeded onto RIBA Stage 2, the concept design stage. WSCC multidisciplinary Consultants have appointed the design team, who have identified the necessary surveys that need to be undertaken and those are being arranged imminently. Dialogue with Sport England has commenced, in the hope of avoiding any delays during the planning stage. College Engagement Meetings to inform the design will commence on 14th August 2020.

KEY DATES:

Planning application submission: November 2020

Planning Decision: March 2021

Handover: May 2023

The programme has taken into consideration, WSCC’s governance processes which must be adhered too. WSCC are exploring various procurement options to ensure the least disruption to Woodlands Meed School and the neighbouring Birchwood Grove County School.