

REPORT TO THE AREA COMMITTEE

SSAFA Southglade Health Centre

- **Progress to date**

Following on from the report tabled at the Area Committee in March, initial geotechnical investigative work on the proposed site for the new Health Centre identified contaminants in the soil, namely hydrocarbons as well as methane gas. This entailed further, more detailed, work with an increased number of bore holes and a period of gas monitoring to quantify, as far as possible, the extent and nature of the contamination and hence the actions required to proceed. The outcome of this further, in-depth, geotechnical investigation showed that whilst methane gas was present, as well as other ground contaminants, these were at very low concentrations. The building will incorporate additional construction provisions to manage the presence of the methane gas. The residual contamination of the site will be brought to the attention of the contractor through the Pre-Tender Health and Safety Plan and whilst precautions will, of course, be taken throughout the construction period, this will not present a hazard to the surrounding area or population.

However, in order to minimise the impact on the vicinity still further SSAFA has taken the decision that wherever possible no soil (arising) will be removed from the site as a consequence of the construction works and it is SSAFA's intention that all excavated soil will be retained within the curtilage of the site. This will also help to reduce the carbon footprint of the construction by reducing considerably the need to transport excavated material to suitable tips.

The full planning application was submitted to Nottingham City Council on 9 August and the process is expected to take eight weeks. We believe the anticipated decision date is 4 October 2010. We also understand that the 21-day consultation period will commence shortly.

Detailed tender documents are being prepared for the construction stage. A list of local and national construction companies has been prepared and questionnaires have been sent to each to ascertain their ability to build on the complex site and to the high standards that SSAFA and its design team expect.

Display boards have been situated in the Sure Start Access Centre, the Library and Leisure Centre and the project manager was available on Friday 27 August 2010 in the Library for people to ask questions. An information leaflet about the Health Centre has been printed and will be distributed locally by the Area teams. The Library has a supply of these.

The programme of works continues to the expected timetable, with service commencement due at the beginning of November 2011.

Suzanne Uprichard
1 September 2010