

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: MINISTRY OF JUSTICE – NEW PRISON DEVELOPMENT AT GLEN PARVA**

#### **Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the development of a new prison at Glen Parva in Leicester.

#### **Background**

2. Outline Planning Permission was granted in 2017 by Blaby District Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council for the demolition of the old prison, and the construction of a new Category C Adult Male prison.
3. The new prison development at Glen Parva will hold 1,680 men and will be a purpose-built category C resettlement prison.
4. Demolition at the site was completed in May 2019.
5. It is anticipated that the Operator Framework (a Framework of six operators to effectively and efficiently manage a pipeline of prison competitions over the coming years) will be used to run a competition to secure the operator for the new prison; this competition would start in 2021 at the earliest.
6. Last year, the Prime Minister announced an investment of up to £2.5bn to transform the prison estate and provide 10,000 additional prison places, on top of the 3,360 already being delivered at the new prisons at Wellingborough and Glen Parva.

#### **Notable developments**

##### **Progress since the last update in January 2020**

7. Following public feedback resulting in changes to the design, a new Reserved Matters application was submitted including a rotation of one of the houseblocks on the southern part of the site on 28 November 2019.
8. In January, Alberto Costa, MP for South Leicestershire which includes Glen Parva, met with the Prison Minister, Lucy Frazer QC MP, to discuss the proposed design changes including the rotation of the four-storey houseblock at the southern part of the site. Following this meeting, revisions were made to the Reserved Matters to plant taller 8m trees to restrict visibility from the third and fourth storey windows of the residential properties along Westleigh Road.

9. In April, the Prison Minister held a virtual meeting with Alberto Costa in advance of the planning decision, due in May, to reassure the MP and his constituents' that their views had been reflected in recent proposals. The Minister also provided reassurance that it is appropriate for council officials to make the decision on the Reserved Matters to avoid delays to the project.
10. In May, the applications for the approval of the remaining Reserved Matters (landscaping, appearance, layout) and application for the construction of the kitchen at Glen Parva were approved by Blaby District and Oadby & Wigston Councils. Conditions have been applied and these are now incorporated as part of regular internal project updates.
11. On 11 May early works began on the site of the new prison which includes site surveys, set-up of the initial project site office and welfare facilities, investigatory works for piling locations, and a temporary drainage diversion. Local residents, businesses and key stakeholders were informed in advance of this. The newsletter sent to residents is attached in Annex A.

### **Upcoming milestones**

12. Design and procurement are running concurrently to July 2020 to agree a fixed price for the construction work.
13. It is anticipated that the successful constructor for the new prison will be announced this summer.
14. Subject to HM Treasury approval, construction is expected to begin in summer 2020. It is expected to be completed by spring 2023 with the first prisoner being received by summer 2023.

### **Prior Concerns**

#### **Rotation of a houseblock at the southern part of the site**

15. The rotation of the four-storey houseblock at the southern part of the site was necessary to ensure the safety of staff and prisoners held at Glen Parva and we have taken steps to minimise the impact to residents.
16. This rotation will allow prison staff to observe men in the exercise yard from the houseblock entrance, enabling staff to respond more quickly to incidents.
17. Action is being taken to reduce the visual impact on local residents by planting taller 8m trees that will restrict the visibility from the third and fourth storey windows to the residential properties along the Westleigh Road.
18. Once construction is complete, we will arrange a tour for residents to allow them to see first-hand the view from the cells towards Westleigh Road.

#### **Noise created by men from the houseblocks**

19. Cell windows will be secured and sealed with toughened glass and a ventilated steel plate which will stop prisoners reaching out, reduce noise, stop waste being thrown from windows and prevent prisoners from accessing drugs and mobile phones.

20. It is also worth noting that the men held in the prison will be adults preparing to resettle into the community, rather than the 18-21 year olds held at the former prison that residents reported were noisy.

### **Prison workshops potentially overlooking a local primary school**

21. This risk has been mitigated in the planning permission by the overlooking windows being glazed and opaque to obstruct the view.

### **Name for the new prison development at Glen Parva**

22. We have listened to the community's views and will give the new prison a new name.
23. We anticipate using the same naming process we used for the new prison at Wellingborough which involved:
- Publishing an article in local media inviting the local community to submit name proposals and writing to key stakeholders;
  - Shortlisting submitted proposals to five names;
  - Putting shortlisted names forward to a panel of local community representatives to decide on the final name.
24. We want to take the opportunity to name the new modern establishment to reflect the innovation and flagship design that it embodies, and embrace the history and culture of Glen Parva, and its roots in the community.

### **Officer to contact**

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