

News

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Morgan Sindall to create £14 million education campus in Wolverhampton

Morgan Sindall has been appointed to design and build two new schools in Wolverhampton, at the site of the former headquarters of Tarmac, on Millfields Road.

Both contracts have been awarded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) through the Constructing West Midlands Framework (CWMF); the preferred delivery mechanism for capital building, repair and maintenance works for public sector organisations throughout the West Midlands.

The first contract will see the creation of a new £3 million home for Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre. Established in 2015, and governed by The Central Learning Partnership Trust, it is the only free school in the country which offers vocational training to 16 to 18 year old students who have Special Educational Needs, or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The school has been operating from a temporary location on nearby Upper Villiers Street, but will relocate to the new purpose-built 150,000 sq ft facility when construction work is complete at the end of this year.

Plans will see an existing garage on the site overhauled, with the old roof and internal partitions stripped out and replaced by a portal steel frame and cladded panels.

The one-storey facility will feature 12 classrooms with capacity for 80 pupils, and designed with specific trades in mind.

Vocational training courses which will be delivered include: construction, carpentry, catering, painting and decorating, dog grooming, hair styling and horticulture. There will also be a fully functioning MOT bay to allow motor vehicle maintenance to be taught.

In addition to these practical courses, tailored for the local job market, pupils will also continue working towards English, Maths and ICT qualifications, as well as benefiting from specific courses aimed at developing their interpersonal skills.

The second contract involves the creation of a new £11 million campus for the British Sikh School; a free secondary school governed by the Khalsa Academies Trust. The academy opened in 2015 and has been operating from a temporary base at Parkfield High School, on Wolverhampton Road East.

Plans for the new school will see the complete refurbishment of an existing four-storey building on the site, to create a modern 53,000 sq ft learning environment with capacity to eventually accommodate 840 pupils.

A single-storey canteen on the site will also be overhauled to provide a 8,800 sq ft modern dining area, in addition to specialist teaching spaces for cookery and music classes.

The completed school will also feature a separate 3,200 sq ft sports hall, built on a portal steel frame. External sports and recreation facilities will include an all-weather 3G pitch, along with tennis and basketball courts.

Work is already underway, with the Morgan Sindall site team first carrying out extensive remediation work to old mine shafts, part of the former industrial site. The finished school is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Nick Singh Kandola, chairman of Khalsa Academies Trust, said: “We are delighted that works have now commenced at the permanent site for the school. The brand new facilities will provide a modern hi-tech environment and educational facilities to support the provision of excellent teaching and learning for our pupils and staff. In addition, the very good sports facilities and auditorium will support the provision of high quality enrichment activities.”

Morgan Sindall framework manager, Dave Kelly, added: “Over the past six years Morgan Sindall has completed 30 projects with a value of around £170 million through our work on the CWM framework, and within that, 22 have been schools.

“Providing a learning environment aimed at getting young people with special education needs into work offers genuine social value to the local community. Building the British Sikh School on the same site will allow both organisations to share resources and allow the EFA to realise significant efficiencies.

“We’re incredibly pleased to have been awarded these latest contracts and to continue our successful tenure on the framework.”

Morgan Sindall is in a consortium arrangement with its sister company Lovell on the multi-contractor CWM framework. The consortium, known as Community Solutions, had its role on Lot 7 of the framework extended in September last year. Lot 7 covers major capital projects with a value in excess of £500,000, and has so far yielded projects to the value of over £71m since its inception.

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