

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****REPLACEMENT OF THE ORCHARD SPECIAL SCHOOL AND NEWARK DAY CENTRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the replacement of the existing Orchard Special School and Newark Day Centre on the existing site, and the temporary relocation of the Day Centre to Woods Court, Newark to facilitate the redevelopment and reconfiguration of the existing site, along with all associated consultation, engagement and detailed design works to expedite the delivery of the project.

**Information**

2. In line with the Council Plan for 2017-21, "Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future", and the associated Place Plan for Nottinghamshire, the Council has a clear commitment to replacing the existing Orchard Special School in Newark with new school premises.
3. The existing Orchard site is adjacent to the former Grove Leisure Centre which has recently been demolished, the Newark Day Centre, the former Newark Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), and a small landscape depot, all of which are owned and controlled by the County Council.
4. An options appraisal has been completed to look at the potential redevelopment of the whole site in order to:
  - a. Deliver a new, high quality Orchard Special School;
  - b. Deliver a new, high quality Newark Day Centre;
  - c. Maximise the opportunities for synergies between both new premises;
  - d. Ensure the users of both facilities maximise the benefits available to them;
  - e. Realise the best disposal value for the retained, but unused site area.
5. The options appraisal process has identified a preferred option which requires the existing Day Centre to be demolished so that the replacement School can be constructed on the site adjacent to a new Day Centre.
6. In order to ensure service continuity for Day Centre users, a temporary Day Centre provision will be established in the Woods Court facility in Newark, which is currently due to be decommissioned and closed in May 2018.
7. This report seeks approval for the principle of the development, seeks agreement to undertake consultation and/ or engagement with users and stakeholders of both of the

existing facilities as appropriate, and seeks approval to commence the detailed design and construction of the project.

8. A Project Board to oversee the development will be established to ensure stakeholder and member engagement.

### **Delivery and Funding of the Development**

9. The proposed project is identified within the Capital Programme. Full Council on 28 February 2018 approved an increased contribution of £2.5m toward the scheme.
10. Outline design only has been undertaken at this stage. Detailed design will commence once this report is approved. Full equality impact assessments will be undertaken.
11. Further reports will be brought to the relevant Committee as the scheme progresses, at key decision points within the programme and in accordance with Council's financial regulations.
12. At this stage, and subject to detailed design work, it is anticipated that both new premises will be operational during 2020.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. Consideration has been given to a range of options for the site. However the solution set out above offers the best long term option for service users in the Newark area, and will see both existing facilities replaced with outstanding replacement premises.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. Replacement of the Orchard school is a key aspiration of the County Council, and the best option for delivering that aspiration includes the associated replacement of the Newark Day Centre. The resultant new premises will deliver outstanding service provision for vulnerable children and adults for many years to come.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That approval is given to replace the Orchard Special School and the Newark Day Centre and to undertake the relevant consultation and/or engagement with service users, detailed design and enabling works and legal agreements;

- 2) That approval is given to the temporary relocation of the Newark Day Centre to Woods Court in Newark to enable the construction works to be undertaken;
- 3) That further reports are presented to the relevant Committee.

**Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE**  
**Leader of the County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mick Allen on 0115 9774684**

**Constitutional Comments [SSR 08/03/2018]**

16. The recommendations set out in this report fall within the scope of decisions that may be approved by Policy Committee.

**Financial Comments [GB 07/03/2018]**

17. The financial implications are set out in the report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

- None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Ward(s): Newark East  
County Councillor Stuart Wallace