

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CARLTON LE WILLOWS ACADEMY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places in Gedling to meet future projected need by approving the funding of the extension of Carlton le Willows Academy to 12 forms of entry.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure a sufficiency of school places for all children of statutory school age (5-16 years old) whose parents want them to be educated in a state-funded school. As the Local Authority's role shifts to that of being a 'commissioner' of school places, it will be necessary to work in a different way with a diverse range of providers and different models of governance. The future landscape of education provision in Nottinghamshire is expected to be a 'mixed economy' approach, characterised by a wide variety of schools, academies and other providers.
3. Current projections for the Carlton secondary planning area indicate that there will be an anticipated shortfall of approximately 750 secondary school places by the start of the 2027-28 academic year. To mitigate this the Council has been working with the Redhill Trust to provide 300 additional secondary places at Carlton Academy, funded via Basic Need. When these new places are delivered in September 2020, the projected shortfall will reduce from 750 to 450 secondary places (or 3 forms of entry). The proposal is for Basic Need funding to be used to provide these places via expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy as outlined in this report.

Way Forward

4. With funding from the Council of £27,500, The Carlton le Willows Academy has commissioned a team led by Welham Architects to consider the feasibility of the extension of the school from 8 forms of entry to 12 with such work suggesting that this can be achieved and the school is now seeking funding from the Council to progress through detailed design, planning, tendering and through to construction. This will meet current needs with additional capacity built in.
5. The feasibility work has sought to confirm the ability of the site to include 28 further classrooms, increase the size of the main hall, dining provision and staff and visitor parking, while creating a more cohesive campus linking the current east and west blocks. Toilet provision and disability access will be improved and the provision of a proposed new vehicular access from Burton Road will address capacity issues on Wood Lane. The ability to

consolidate teaching departments into single locations will minimise unnecessary travel times.

6. The feasibility has considered three options, all involving construction of a new teaching block between the east and west blocks, with the different options including further conversion of existing spaces and/or small infill new build. The preferred cheapest option comprises the new teaching block, car park, access to Burton Road and conversion of spaces with a total estimated cost of £10,922,640. Subject to the Council's approval the timetable would be for a planning application to be submitted on 1st July 2020 with approval targeted at 1st November 2020 allowing a contract commencement in February 2021 with completion of building works in February 2022. Fit out would allow full opening in September 2022. Arc Partnership has reviewed the proposals and is comfortable that the designs provide for the Council's pupil places requirements with the costs benchmarked and acceptable. It is proposed that Arc Partnership will be commissioned by the Council to act on its behalf through the project to give assurance that the project is being progressed to provide the expected accommodation to programme.
7. It is proposed that the Council will enter into a funding agreement with the Academy which will be in two parts. Firstly, the agreement will be for the Academy to take their proposals through pre construction elements of detailed design, planning and tender at a total cost of £546,700. On satisfactory completion the second phase of the funding agreement will release the funding necessary for the construction works being a maximum of £10,375,940. The funding will be limited to the amounts identified and the risk of cost of higher costs will remain with the Academy. Funding will be paid in instalments in accordance with the Council's standard funding agreement terms to reflect progress with the project. The Council will also incur the cost of the Arc Partnership's assurance role estimated at £40,000.

Other Options Considered

8. As detailed in this report, the options to expand the existing school have been assessed and this has potential to provide a solution to pupil place shortfall in the Carlton planning area.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. To enable an appropriate strategy to be put in place to ensure that secondary school pupils can be accommodated in the Carlton planning area.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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.

Financial Implications

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

Implications for Service Users

12. The provision of additional school places within Gedling will help to ensure pupils can be accommodated at their school of choice.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

13. The provision of an expanded school serving its immediate local area will reduce the need to travel.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That approval is given to:

- 1) The completion of a two part funding agreement with the Carlton le Willows Academy to provide funding of £546,700 for the pre-construction detailed design, planning and tendering of the proposed expansion of the school to 12 forms of entry, and on satisfactory receipt of planning consent and receipt of a tender acceptable to the Academy further funding to a maximum of £10,375,940 for the undertaking of the project.
- 2) The commissioning of Arc Partnership to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,000

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS, MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Neil Gamble, Group Manager, Property Asset Management, Tel: 0115 977 3405 e: neil.gamble@mnottscs.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KK 16/03/2020)

14. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (GB 24/03/2020)

15. The £11.0m capital expenditure identified in this report can be accommodated within the School Places Programme which is already approved within the Children and Young People's Committee capital programme. This will mean, however, that projects that are already earmarked to be funded from this programme will need to slip and be funded from future years' Basic Need allocations or alternative sources.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Carlton East - Councillor Nicki Brooks