

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BASIC NEED ALLOCATION FOR THE CARLTON ACADEMY (THE REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST)

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Member approval for the investment up to £2,900,000 towards the planned expansion of The Carlton Academy to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places for September 2019 and the coming 5 years.
2. To update Members on the emerging proposal to secure a medium to long term plan to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places in the planning area in partnership with the Redhill Academies Trust.

Information

3. The quality of schools and education provision is a key priority in our Council Plan and in investing in Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire County Council has continued to invest significantly in the provision of schools across the County. Between 2013 and 2019, approximately 5,500 primary school places have been created at a cost of £65m. The Council continues to invest in school places provision and replacement/new schools are currently being built in Bestwood (Hawthorne Primary School) and Hucknall (the Flying High Academy), with a further new primary school planned for Sharphill, West Bridgford. The County Council is also currently rebuilding Orchard Special School in Newark, and has committed to the rebuilding of the Whitehills Park secondary academy in Bramcote.
4. Across the County, 85.1% of schools are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, which means children and young people are well served by education providers. This is particularly the case in Gedling. On 1 March 2019, which was national secondary offer day, there were 1,305 applications processed from residents within the Gedling area. 1,195 (91.6%) received their first preference with 1,275 (97.7%) receiving one of their 4 preferences. In this district only 30 alternative offers had to be made where NCC Admissions could not meet a parental preference. Of these 30, 16 made only one preference. This was delivered through a strong partnership with six secondary schools in the Gedling district which have remained committed to working positively with the County Council to secure a long term plan for this planning area.
5. The Carlton Academy sits in the Carlton area of Gedling alongside Carlton le Willows which is a standalone secondary trust. These are high performing popular secondary academies in a densely populated area. There are two large housing developments in progress in the

area at: Teal Close in Netherfield and Chase Farm in Carlton. At completion it is expected that these developments will contribute an additional 2 forms of entry (300 secondary students) over the next five academic years (by 2025) in the planning area.

6. A report was taken to Children and Young People's Committee in February 2019 and permission was given to pursue plans that would result in the expansion of The Carlton Academy to meet the need for school places. Negotiations have successfully concluded the following agreement:
 - The Carlton Academy (Redhill Trust) has agreed, in principle, to expand by an additional 2 forms of entry and to work with the Council to deliver this programme.
7. In the short term The Carlton Academy agreed to admit significantly over its Published Admission Number (PAN) of 170 in the 2018/19 academic year to admit 235 Year 7 pupils for September 2019. This has ensured that in September 2019, linked and catchment children who expressed a preference for The Carlton Academy have secured a school place. As a result, immediate work on the site is essential to provide the necessary classroom and specialist areas during the 2019/20 academic year and up to 2027. This would require revision should the pace of house building increase, or the base population figure also increases higher than currently projected.
8. Officers have been working with the Trust to identify the immediate short-term costs to accommodate the additional intake in September 2019. The Trust has well developed plans and is in the process of seeking planning permission to commence the first phases of the expansion. The Trust has established that the plan should essentially be undertaken as one project which will not only provide the essential additional capacity for 2019/20 academic year, but will also provide additional capacity to provide projected need up to 2027. This expansion of The Carlton Academy will demonstrate to families that Gedling children will continue to have access to school places in good and excellent schools across the district.
9. To deliver the required property activities to secure an additional 300 places, it is recommended that Members approve a budget of up to £2,900,000 funding to the Redhill Trust to undertake the immediate building required at The Carlton Academy to accommodate the September 2019 intake and projected growth in future years.
10. This expansion is part of a plan that needs to be funded by a combination of basic need and developer contributions which Gedling District, to date, has not secured from developers. In the first instance, it is proposed to fund this project at The Carlton Academy from the Council's basic need budget. Developer contributions will be required to be collected by Gedling Borough Council to provide approximately a further 300 further secondary school places across the Carlton secondary planning area by 2027.

Other Options Considered

11. There are no other options at this time that would provide the additional places for September 2019.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places across the County. Gedling planning area is an area that will require additional school places.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. 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

14. The £2,900,000 capital investment required to fund the next phase of The Carlton Academy expansion will be funded from within the School Places Programme which is already approved in the Council's capital programme to provide up to 300 additional secondary places by 2027. Therefore, this funding will be drawn down from Nottinghamshire County Council's Basic Need funding pending Gedling Borough Council securing the agreed developer contributions (Planning reference 2015/1376).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the investment of £2,900,000 to the Redhill Trust to fund the next phase of the planned expansion of The Carlton Academy to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places for September 2019 and beyond to 2027.
- 2) receives further updates on the medium to long term plan to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places in the Carlton area of Gedling District.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

David Hughes
Service Director - Investment & Growth
T: 0115 9773825
E: david.hughes@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LW 08/05/19)

15. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (GB 03/05/19)

16. As the section 106 contributions are unlikely to have been triggered prior to commencement of these works it is proposed that the project will initially be funded from the School Places programme capital budget. This is until such time that the section 106 contributions are received from Gedling Borough Council. This represents a risk to the Authority should the Section 106 funds not be received. The £2.9m capital investment in Carlton Academy will initially be funded from the School Places Capital Programme which is already approved in the Children and Young People's Committee capital programme and totals £30.8m for the period 2019/20 to 2020/21.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proposed Basic Need Programme of School Expansions 2019/20 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All