

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

EXPANSION OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to the principle of an increase in capacity at South Nottinghamshire Academy by one form of entry (FE) / 150 school places.
2. To seek approval for an allocation of Basic Needs funding to enable a detailed analysis, site surveys and feasibility studies regarding the deliverability and estimated costs for the above expansion.

Information

3. 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 Council'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.
4. South Nottinghamshire Academy is located in Rushcliffe. The school was built in 2016, as a replacement for the former Dayncourt Comprehensive, and is now part of the Redhill Trust. The school is rated as 'good' by Ofsted. Its PAN is 120 (4 FE). From a curriculum delivery standpoint this is not ideal, the school is too small. Recently, the higher performance of the school and much reduced scope for an out of catchment place at other local schools has resulted in a far higher proportion of catchment families stating a positive preference for South Nottinghamshire.
5. For September 2020 the school has allocated 150 children at primary to secondary transfer (PST), This number exceeds the school's PAN by 30, which means that it will effectively be acting as a 5 FE setting. In total, 139 of the 150 allocations are from in catchment. Of the allocations, the majority are of children attending the linked primary schools:
 - 63 pupils will transfer from Radcliffe on Trent Juniors
 - 14 pupils will transfer from Cotgrave C of E Primary
 - 56 pupils will transfer from Cotgrave Candleby Lane Primary
 - 17 pupils will transfer from other primary schools

Without SNA offering over PAN, 19 catchment area children would have been refused a place at their local school.

6. Nottinghamshire County Council's current 10 year pupil projection for the school anticipates a consistent shortfall of available secondary places in Radcliffe-on-Trent that reaches a peak of 117 places in 2024-25 then decreases thereafter to 64 places.

				School years							Whole school projection	
		Net	PROJ									surplus / deficit place
School Name	PA	ca	YEAR	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	TOTAL	
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2019-20	124	146	117	102	105	45	41	680	+43
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2020-21	130	127	149	116	100	55	48	725	-2
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2021-22	152	132	129	147	113	55	58	786	-63
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2022-23	125	154	134	127	144	62	58	804	-81
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2023-24	141	127	156	132	124	77	65	822	-99
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2024-25	137	143	129	154	129	68	80	840	-117
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2025-26	134	139	145	127	151	70	71	837	-114
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2026-27	117	136	141	143	124	82	74	817	-94
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2027-28	141	119	138	139	140	69	85	831	-108
South Nottinghamshire Academy	120	723	2028-29	107	142	120	135	135	77	71	787	-64

7. The school is part of the Rushcliffe East secondary planning area, which also includes South Wolds Academy and Toot Hill School. Current projections for the planning area also indicate a shortfall of secondary school places:

				School years							Whole school projection	
		Net	PROJ									surplus /
Planning area	PA	ca	YEAR	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	TOTA	deficit place
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2019-20	596	593	573	565	567	301	291	3486	+268
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2020-21	654	602	596	566	560	323	303	3604	+150
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2021-22	659	660	605	590	562	334	328	3738	+16
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2022-23	642	670	667	603	589	342	343	3856	-102
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2023-24	655	653	678	666	604	362	351	3969	-215
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2024-25	661	665	660	676	666	377	370	4075	-321
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2025-26	617	669	670	655	673	414	382	4080	-326
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2026-27	617	625	674	665	652	421	420	4074	-320
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2027-28	597	621	626	666	659	411	423	4003	-249
Rushcliffe East	570	3754	2028-29	576	600	621	617	659	417	412	3902	-148

8. There is a significant amount of housing anticipated to be built in the planning area, with circa 1,000 dwellings being constructed in Bingham (Chapel Lane / Roman's Quarter) and Radcliffe-on-Trent (Shelford Road). Housing developer contributions in Bingham (£2.74m) will see the PAN rise at Toot Hill school from 300 to 330, creating 150 additional permanent places. The Shelford Road housing development (400 dwellings) also contributes a further £1.136m towards additional school places.

9. If South Nottinghamshire Academy is not expanded, an increasing number of catchment area pupils will not be able to secure a place at the school and will be displaced. For families living in Radcliffe-on-Trent, the closest alternative secondary schools are all over the statutory distance:

- Toot Hill School at a direct distance of 3.452 miles (3.796 walking)
- Rushcliffe School at a direct distance of 4.317 miles (5.334 walking)
- The West Bridgford School at a direct distance of 4.736 miles (5.361 walking)

NCC will therefore be required to provide transport support for a growing number of children. NCC Transport have suggested that this could result in an annual transport cost of £75,000, based on 150 catchment children of statutory secondary school age being unlikely to access a place at the school.

Way Forward

10. The Redhill Trust has a proven track record in the delivery of new school places, particularly the extension of The Carlton Academy. Investment of Basic Need funding into South Nottinghamshire Academy, combined with section 106 funding, would allow the school's PAN to rise from its current 120 (4 FE) to 150 (5FE). By doing so, all local need could be met. It would also strengthen curriculum range and delivery.
11. Basic Need funding of £25,000 is required in order to undertake the site assessment and options appraisals, that is, feasibility work. The Redhill Trust would undertake this work.
12. Further reports will be brought back as appropriate to update Members and seek any additional approvals required.
13. Should feasibility be established further Basic Need funding would be required from the Council in order to forward-fund the school's expansion. There would be opportunity to use section 106 funding to reimburse this although the extent will be dependent on the anticipated cost established through the feasibility works. The delivery of the project would be monitored by Arc.

Other Options Considered

14. Given that the section 106 agreement with respect to the housing on Shelford Road stipulates that the funding must be allocated to growth of provision at South Nottinghamshire Academy, no alternatives have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. Expansion would help secure sufficient secondary school places for families in Radcliffe-on-Trent.
16. The cost of expansion is expected to be minimal, and the Redhill Trust would be responsible should the project go over budget.

17. Expansion would enable NCC to avoid high and on-going transportation costs that would be accrued if catchment area pupils were required to attend alternative secondary settings.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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

19. The surveys and feasibility study costs will be funded from Nottinghamshire County Council capital resources.

Implications for Service Users

20. The provision of additional school places within the Rushcliffe East planning area will help to ensure pupils can be accommodated at their school of choice.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

21. The provision of schools serving their immediate local area will reduce the need to travel.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That approval is given to:

- 1) The principle of an increase in capacity at South Nottinghamshire Academy by one form of entry (FE) /150 school places.
- 2) Funding of £25,000 to enable detailed analysis, site surveys and feasibility studies that would assess deliverability and estimated construction costs.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS, MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Derek Higton, Service Director, 0115 9773498

Constitutional Comments (AK 17/06/2020)

22. The report falls within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 02/07/2020)

23. The £25,000 funding required to carry out the works identified in this report will be funded from the £13.3m School Places 2020/21 capital budget. This funding is already approved in the Children and Young People's Committee capital programme.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Radcliffe-on-Trent - Councillor Kay Cutts
- Cotgrave – Councillor Richard Butler