

11th December 2023**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GREEN GROWTH, INVESTMENT AND
ASSETS****PROPOSED EXPANSION OF TOOT HILL SCHOOL****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to fund feasibility works through Grant Funding Agreement to investigate the options available to expand Toot Hill Academy by 1FE.

Information

2. Pupil data is showing that by September 2024, there will be a deficit of secondary spaces in the Rushcliffe East planning area. By 2029-30, there will be a need for an additional 400 pupil places in the planning area.
3. Toot Hill Academy is included in a future tranche of schools to be rebuilt or refurbished under the Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRP). The project will include a permanent 1FE expansion, which is to be funded partially through Housing Developer Contributions (HDCs) and partially through the Council's Basic Need programme. However the programme for the rebuild of Toot Hill is currently unclear and the Council is required to address more immediate pupil place demands which requires a 1FE expansion in advance of the new build.
4. It is therefore proposed that Nova Education Trust will receive a sum of £35,000 (thirty-five thousand pounds) via a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) in order to complete a feasibility study into this advance provision, which will be monitored by Arc partnership on the Council's behalf. Pending the results of the study further proposals with detailed design and associated costs will be presented for approval.

Other Options Considered

5. A significant shortage of secondary school places across the planning area has been identified over the next pupil planning period. The early expansion of Toot Hill will contribute significantly to addressing this issue, until the new/refurbished school can provide places on a more permanent basis.
6. Taking no action would result in there being insufficient secondary school places across the pupil planning area.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To ensure that the schools within the Rushcliffe East planning area can provide sufficient teaching space for secondary school pupils.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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

9. The Council is asked to provide £35,000 from Basic Need funding for initial feasibility work to provide the much-needed secondary school places in the pupil planning area.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) The Council enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Nova Education Trust to fund feasibility works of up to £35,000 to investigate the options for providing additional 1FE expansion at Toot Hill School.

Wayne Bexton

Service Director, Green Growth, Investment and Assets

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 01/12/2023)

10. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management by virtue of their terms of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 06/12/2023)

11. It is proposed that the £35,000 costs set out in this report are funded from the School Places capital programme that is already approved within the Children and Families portfolio capital programme.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Rushcliffe : Bingham East
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan

File ref: NG/SB/01663
Sp 4055

Authorisation

Cabinet Member	Signed	Name Councillor Keith Girling	Date 4th January 2024
Corporate/Service Director	Signed	Name Derek Higton	Date 4th January 2024