

**12 September 2018****Agenda Item: 9**

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

### **REPLACEMENT OF THE ORCHARD SPECIAL SCHOOL AND NEWARK DAY CENTRE UPDATE REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Committee on progress of the programme 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

#### **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. The report to Policy Committee in March 18 outlined the proposal for the site and enabling works required. This report seeks to update on the various aspects of the programme.

#### **Replacement Special School**

5. The Client Engagement Meetings have concluded, and the Schedule of accommodation and general arrangement plans have been created. The design is now being developed to enable a planning submission at the end of September 2018. The contractor, Wilmott Dixon, is working up a feasibility cost based on the current design information as a check against the approved budget.
6. In recognition of their potential £1.03m funding to the project the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) require that the replacement school project follows the requirements of their Local Delivery Programme. A mid-point feasibility review with the ESFA has taken place and the ESFA have stated that they are impressed with the quality of information provided so far.

## **Replacement Day Centre**

7. The Client Engagement Meetings have concluded, and the Schedule of accommodation and general arrangement plans have been created. The design is now being developed to enable a planning submission at the end of September 2018. The contractor, GF Tomlinson, is working up a feasibility cost based on the current design information as a check against the approved budget.

## **Temporary Day centre at Wood Court**

8. The relocation of the Day Service into Woods Court is critical to the delivery of the replacement school and necessary to ensure service continuity for the centre users. Woods Court became vacant in May 2018.
9. Detailed design has been completed. A planning application to seek Change of Use of this former residential facility has been submitted to the County Council as Planning Authority. The contractor is pricing the works necessary to facilitate the relocation. Subject to achieving planning consent works are programmed to commence on the building in October 2018

## **Anticipated Programme timeline**

### **10. Key Milestones, Programme delivery**

- Day service to relocate to Woods Court - April 2019
- Start on site replacement School – April 2019
- Start on site day service – July 2019
- New school opens – April 2020
- New day service opens – April 2020

## **Funding Update**

11. The ESFA has allocated £125k grant for Project Delivery for the replacement school in addition to its £1.03m funding contribution to the project.
12. A further report will be brought to Finance and Major Contracts Committee in September 2018 setting out the Latest Estimated Cost (LEC) for approval ahead of moving to the construction phase of the programme.

## **Other Options Considered**

13. Consideration has been given to a range of options for the site. However the solution agreed 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**

It is recommended that:

- 1) That Members endorse the contents of the report and consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained in the report.

**Derek Higon**

**Service Director, Place and Communities**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Phil Berrill, Team Manager, Departmental Services, Tel: 0115 9774641

## **Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/08/2018)**

16. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments**

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- Replacement of the Orchard Special School and Newark Day Centre – Report to Policy Committee 28-03-2018 – Published
- Replacement of the Orchard Special School and Newark Day Centre update report – Report to Report to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee 16-07-2018 – Published

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

Ward(s): Newark East

County Councillor Stuart Wallace