

16th October 2023**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR GREEN GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE
AND ASSETS****PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FOUNTAINDALE SCHOOL, MANSFIELD****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to provide £180,824.55 through a Grant Funding Agreement to Nexus Multi Academy Trust, to support the expansion and improvement to the school to offer 16 additional places.

Information

2. The SEND place planning strategy seeks to support all education providers in the county to offer the highest quality of care and education possible.
3. A proposal has been received from Nexus Multi Academy Trust to create additional teaching space at Fountaindale by extending the school to create three large teaching spaces and a large lounge/kitchenette space for post 16 provision and allow further reconfiguration in existing space to create expansion.
4. A phased approach is planned which would give capacity for an additional sixteen children to join the setting in January 2024, providing quality transitions for both existing and new children.
5. The total cost of the project is estimated at £380,824.55; Nexus has funding of £200,000 available to them and have asked if the Council will fund the balance of £180,824.55.
6. The project will be managed by RLB (Nexus MAT's Assets partner) ensuring compliance with regulations and working to project management principles around quality, cost, and timeliness. The project scope includes looking at insulation and solar panels to integrate sustainability objectives into the project. It is proposed that the Council commission Arc Partnership to monitor the design and works at a cost of £10,000.

Other Options Considered

7. If the Council chose not to support these proposals the opportunity to provide much needed SEND places would be lost. The proposal provides a value for money option for providing additional places towards the current deficit of places in the county for young people in an

established location of identified need. For these reasons the proposal is supported. There are no other immediate alternatives.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To ensure that building is in place to provide the appropriate accommodation for pupils with special needs to meet current unmatched demand. Provision of SEND places will help the Council meet its equalities duties.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. The Council is asked to provide £180,824.55 from the SEND budget to support the proposal for adaptation and expansion of the existing site to provide these much-needed places and £10,000 from the same budget for scheme monitoring by Arc partnership.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Council enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Nexus Multi Academy Trust, to part fund the expansion of Fountaindale School in the sum of £180,824.55.
- 2) Arc partnerships to be commissioned to monitor the scheme at a cost of £10,000.

Wayne Bexton

Service Director Green Growth, Investment and Assets

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 08/09/23)

11. 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 17/08/2023)

12. It is proposed that the £191k of costs set out in this report are funded from the Special School capital budget which is already approved in the Children and Young People's portfolio capital programme.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Ashfield – Sutton Central and East
Councillor Samantha Deakin

File ref: EAS/SB/01301
Sp 4054