

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020****Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
SKILLS****BASIC NEED PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL EXPANSION 2020/21****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to take the list of schools identified in **Appendix 1** forward to feasibility.
2. The report also seeks approval to take forward to delivery the expansion of Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior School.

**Information**

3. Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in the County.
4. On an annual basis the Council makes a statutory return to the Department for Education (DfE) outlining the net capacity and levels of occupation in its schools. This School Capacity return (SCAP) informs the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) allocation of the level of 'Basic Need' grant for new school places in the County due to population growth.
5. The assessment of Basic Need for the period 2020/21, has yet to be determined by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). This assessment is informed by the Department's judgement as to the sufficiency issues Nottinghamshire faces arising from their analysis of the School Capacity (SCAP) return which was made in Autumn 2019.
6. Basic Need funding is not ring fenced and comes with no recommendations as to which schools or planning areas should be allocated capital funding. It must be deployed to address capital issues and cannot be used to address revenue issues.
7. Officers in Pupil Place Planning work in close conjunction with partner services in School Admissions, Planning, Place and Information and Systems to interrogate all available data in respect of projected demand for places and identify where the most pressing and appropriate sites for expansion lie.

8. In the past the Council has been required to organise mobile classrooms to meet urgent teaching requirements with temporary planning permissions. On a predictable basis these come to the end of their permission or to the end of their viable life. The Basic Need allocation has been used over the years to replace these with permanent classrooms where data indicates that places are still required.
9. In the period 2013-16 the Council noted a significant growth in pupil numbers in the primary school phase, resulting in the allocation to the Council of approximately £70 million of Basic Need funding. This spending led to the creation of over 5,500 additional permanent primary places.
10. Projections data indicates that the primary 'bulge', first noted in 2011, has moved through the primary phase and is now being felt increasingly in the secondary phase. This is noted in higher numbers of applications at primary to secondary transfer (PST).
11. Rushcliffe was the first district of Nottinghamshire to experience an increased demand for secondary school places which cannot be met from within the existing school estate; the secondary bulge in is now visible in Gedling, Worksop and Rainworth.
12. Project feasibility studies will establish the risks associated with all the proposals identified in **Appendix 1**. The outcomes of feasibility will inform Elected Members as to where proposed projects are undeliverable, poor value for money or appropriate and meet service needs.
13. A feasibility study in respect of the expansion of Radcliffe on Trent Junior School has been commissioned previously resulting in a detailed design plan which has been granted planning permission. Latest Estimated Cost for the scheme will be included in report to the Council's Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee in April.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. Projects could proceed to planning without feasibility, but this would not then allow risks to be identified and is therefore not considered to be a viable option.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

15. Feasibility costs represent good value for money when compared with the costs associated with abortive planning and design costs which would be incurred without prior feasibility establishing the suitability of proposals.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. 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

17. Where the feasibility works result in a capital project, the costs of the feasibility will be funded from the approved Basic Need school places capital programme. Where a capital project does not ensue, the cost of the feasibility works is not able to be funded from capital resources. As such, these costs will need to be met from within the Place department revenue budget.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) gives approval for the list of schools identified in **Appendix 1** to be taken forward to feasibility.
- 2) gives approval to take the proposed expansion at Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior to the delivery stage

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Mike Sharpe  
Team Manager, Pupil Place Planning  
T: 0115 9772803  
E: [mike.sharpe@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:mike.sharpe@nottsc.gov.uk)

## Constitutional Comments (KK 06/03/20)

18. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

## Financial Comments (GB 11/03/20)

19. The Basic Need works identified in this report will be funded from the School Places programme which is already approved within the capital programme (£12.4m in 2020/21 and £12.6m in 2021/22). Where funding is required in excess of the approved amount additional capital funding will need to be sought through the usual processes. If the feasibility study works do not result in a capital project the costs incurred will be classed as abortive fees and will need to be funded from a revenue budget. As identified in the report, if this is the case, these costs will need to be met from the Place department revenue budget.

## 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.

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

All.

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