

13th September 2021**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT & GROWTH****PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CARLTON LE WILLOWS ACADEMY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To outline the current status of the proposed project to increase pupil places at Carlton le Willows Academy and to seek approval for the release of further funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

Information

2. At its meeting on 13th May 2020 Policy Committee received a report on proposals for the expansion of Carlton le Willows from 8 forms of entry to 12 and gave approval to provide funding to the Academy of £546,700 for pre-construction works. On satisfactory receipt of planning consent and receipt of a tender acceptable to the Academy approval was also given for further funding to a maximum of £10,375,940 for undertaking the project. Committee also approved the commissioning of Arc to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,000.
3. The project provides for an additional 28 classrooms on site, plus additional supporting accommodation and facilities, and the additional pupil places will meet an anticipated shortfall of places in the Carlton secondary planning area. The original programme was for start on site in February 2021 with the scheme completed to take enhanced numbers in September 2022. There have been Covid related delays and delays in the planning process but the need still remains to provide the places for 2022; the Academy believes that it can provide one further form of entry for 2022 in its existing buildings, with the additional required form of entry delivered for September 2023.
4. Since Policy Committee approval the project delivery team led by the Academy has been working on detailed designs and undertaking site surveys and investigations. Planning consent for the proposed scheme has been received and the construction contract has been tendered. Tenders were received on 6th June 2021 and in view of the scale of them the Academy has had to conclude that they do not have an acceptable tender which will allow them to build the scheme within the funding previously approved by Policy Committee.
5. Arc has undertaken a review of the tenders that have been submitted to the Academy and has identified the below which have added to the costs of the works:
 - a BT line and a Severn Trent pipeline that need to be moved prior to the new site entrance being constructed

- a requirement under planning to install a further sports pitch
 - a need to re-route a Western Power supply
 - significant cost inflation that is impacting the construction industry.
6. The impact of these factors has increased the total cost of the scheme from £10,375,940 to £13,984,719 and the Council is requested to increase available funding through the Grant Funding Agreement to this total to enable the scheme to proceed.
7. Arc has been monitoring the scheme through the design and tender process and has confirmed that the scheme as designed does meet the Council's requirement to provide the minimum necessary accommodation and facilities to meet the pupil place expansion requirement. It is accepted that the total cost is significantly higher than originally estimated but it is a tendered figure and Arc has also concluded that this is representative of the current marketplace. Arc will continue to monitor the development and will ensure that all opportunities for savings can be exploited where possible.

Other Options Considered

8. Review the scope of the development to provide a reduced scheme that can be provided within the existing funding envelope: this would take time, push back the completion date and lead to a scheme insufficient to properly provide for the increased intake.
9. Withdraw from the scheme: this would lead to a deficit of pupil places in the area where they are clearly needed.
10. Request the Trust to seek funding to make up the shortfall: this would inevitably take time and have no certainty of success thereby threatening the availability of increased places.

Reason for Recommendation

11. The increased school places are needed as a priority for this area and the scheme is required to be progressed to enable an increase of one form of entry for September 2022 and a further form of entry for September 2023.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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

13. The increase in costs for this project will mean that the Basic Need budget will be affected by £3,062,079. This figure is explained more fully in the main body of this report.

Implications for Service Users

14. The increase in school places will ensure that sufficient secondary school places are available in this area.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

15. The increase in school places will reduce the need for local children to travel. The new school buildings will be energy efficient and where possible materials from sustainable sources will be used.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That approval is given to increase the available funding for this project, through the Grant Funding Agreement, from £10,922,640 to a total maximum sum of £13,984,719.

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Constitutional Comments (SSR 02/09/2021)

16. The recommendation set out in this report falls within the scope of decisions which may be approved by Children & Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (GB 02/09/2021)

17. It is proposed that the £3.6m increased total funding required for this project will be funded from the School Places Programme which is already approved within the Children and Young People's capital programme. The implication of this may mean that other projects earmarked to be funded from this programme will need to slip or be funded from future year Basic Need allocations or alternative sources.

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.

[Proposed expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy – report to Policy Committee on 13th May 2020](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Carlton East Councillor Mike Adams

C1500