

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****WATNALL ROAD, HUCKNALL, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - FREE SCHOOL
PRESUMPTION PERMISSION REQUEST****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks approval to run the presumption process to identify the sponsor for the required new school on the Watnall Road site in Hucknall, to be opened on a phased basis from September 2019.

Information and Advice

2. The building of a new free school is required as a result of the Section 106 agreement between Rolls Royce PLC, Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, signed on 14 November 2014. The first trigger was met in March 2017, meaning the land is now available for transfer to Nottinghamshire County Council ownership.
3. The Hucknall planning area is one which has witnessed housing growth over the last five years. 420 additional school places have already been created in existing schools to meet the demand from population growth, funded through Basic need and/or Section 106 contributions. The additional places are in the following schools:

Beardall Fields	from 210 to 420 creating 210 additional places
Leen Mills	from 350 to 420 creating 70 additional places
Broom Hill Junior	from 240 to 300 creating 60 additional places
Butler's Hill Infant	from 180 to 225 creating 45 additional places
Edgewood Primary	from 280 to 315 creating 35 additional places
4. The building of a new school is now essential to meet the projected demand from the new housing development on the Watnall Road site in Hucknall.
5. It is recommended that pupil recruitment to the new school should be on a staggered basis with a 'First Admission' number of 30 and a lower published admission number (PAN) of 15 in year groups 1 to 6 initially. This mechanism would manage the demand for places arising from the Watnall Road development over time.
6. The information, including application form and criteria for assessment, inviting a submission to become the sponsor of the proposed new school at Watnall Road,

Hucknall, is attached in **Appendix 1**. This document is informed by DfE advice on inviting bids for new Free Schools.

7. Once a sponsor has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE), the Council is expected to work with the sponsor to agree a reasonable and mutually acceptable funding allocation to cover the revenue costs when opening new schools through the presumption route. The exact level of these costs is unclear, but they cannot be paid from either Section 106 contributions or Basic Need grants.
8. The new school site on the Watnall Road housing development became available to the County Council on the occupation of the hundredth dwelling. This means that the Council now has access to the site and sufficient funds to commission design work. The design work has already begun. The identification of a sponsor for the new school is now urgent so that work can begin on the establishment of staffing structures and governance arrangements, in readiness for the opening of the new school in September 2019.

Other Options Considered

9. On 23rd January 2017, potential sponsors were informed of the need for a new school on the Watnall Road site in Hucknall. They were invited to consider expressing an interest in becoming a sponsor and applying to the DfE under the 'direct route' to open a new school on this site. No sponsors have approached the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to express an interest. Therefore, the presumption route is the only route available to open a new school on the Rolls Royce site.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The presumption route has been identified as the most appropriate means for the Council to secure sufficiency of school places on this occasion.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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

12. Whilst Section 106 contributions of £3.6 million (plus indexation) have been secured in relation to the building of the new school on the Watnall Road site, additional capital may be required should the build costs be more than the Section 106 contribution.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval is given to run the presumption route to identify a sponsor for the required new school on the Watnall Road site in Hucknall, to be opened on a phased basis from September 2019.

Councillor Philip Owen
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Mike Sharpe
Team Manager, Place Planning
T: 0115 9773589
E: marion.clay@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 07/11/17)

13. The Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report

Financial Comments (GB 06/11/17)

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report. A variation to the capital programme is required to approve the Section 106 contribution into the capital programme. Further variations to the capital programme will also be required if project costs exceed the Section 106 contribution or if Section 106 triggers are not in line with funding requirements.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1052