

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

FEASIBILITY COSTS FOR THE CARLTON LE WILLOWS ACADEMY (GREATER NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EDUCATION TRUST) BASIC NEED EXPANSION

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Member approval for the investment up to £27,500 to fund the initial feasibility study to secure the expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy to accommodate additional forms of entry into Year 7 from 2020.
2. To update Members on the emerging proposal to secure a medium to long term plan to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places in the planning area in partnership with the Greater Nottinghamshire Education Trust (GNET).

Information

3. The quality of schools and education provision is a key priority in the Council Plan and in investing in Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has continued to invest significantly in the provision of schools across the County. Between 2013 and 2019, approximately 5,500 primary school places were created at a cost of £65m. The County Council continues to invest in school places provision and new schools are currently being built in Bestwood, Hawthorne Primary School at a cost of £6.3m; in Rushcliffe, Sharphill Primary School, the cost is pending approval; and Hucknall, the Flying High Academy at a cost of £4.2m. The County Council is making significant progress in the rebuilding of The Orchard Special School in Newark alongside a new Day Service at a cost of £15.5m. In addition to these investments in Nottinghamshire, the Council has also committed to the rebuilding of The Bramcote School.
4. Across the County 84.8% of schools are rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, which means children and young people are well served by education providers. This is particularly the case in Gedling. On 1 March 2019, which was national secondary offer day, there were 1,305 applications processed from residents within the Gedling area. 1,195 (91.6%) received their first preference with 1,275 (97.7%) receiving one of their four preferences. In this district only 30 alternative offers had to be made where NCC Admissions could not meet a parental preference. Of these 30, 16 made only one preference. This was delivered through a strong partnership with six secondary schools in the Gedling district which have remained committed to working positively with the County Council to secure a long term plan for this planning area.

5. The Carlton le Willows Academy sits in the Carlton area of Gedling alongside Carlton Academy which is part of the Redhill Trust. These are high performing popular secondary academies in a densely populated area. There are two large housing developments in progress in the area at: Teal Close in Netherfield and Chase Farm in Carlton. At completion it is expected that these developments will contribute an additional four forms of entry (600 secondary students) over the next five academic years (by 2025) between Carlton le Willows (300 permanent places) and Carlton Academy (300 permanent places) in this planning area.
6. A report was taken to Children and Young People's Committee in February 2019 and approval was given to pursue plans that would result in the expansion of The Carlton Academy to meet the need for school places. Negotiations have successfully concluded and a further report was taken to Policy Committee in May 2019 securing the release of £2.9m to The Carlton Academy to fund the development of 300 permanent school places by 2023 at the latest.
7. Officers have continued to negotiate with Carlton le Willows to ensure that a further 300 permanent secondary school places are created. GNET has now established the feasibility costs to develop the plan further and has requested £27,500 to undertake the relevant planning.
8. The academy has been formally requested to create 300 additional permanent school places and the feasibility exercise will confirm a two phase plan with the ultimate objective of the academy formalising a PAN (Published Admission Number) of 360 by 2023 at the latest. The Trust has advised that the feasibility exercise should be completed by 31 August 2019 which will inform the final negotiations with the Council in September 2019.

Other Options Considered

9. There are no other options at this time that would provide the additional places for September 2019.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places across the County. Gedling planning area is an area that will require additional school places.

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. The £27,500 capital investment required to fund the feasibility at Carlton le Willows Academy will be funded from within the School Places Programme which is already approved in the Council's capital programme to provide up to 300 additional secondary places by 2027. Therefore, this funding will be drawn down from Nottinghamshire County Council's Basic Need funding.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the investment of £27,500 to fund the initial feasibility study to secure a phased plan to create 300 permanent additional secondary school places at Carlton le Willows Academy by 2023 at the latest.
- 2) requests a further report outlining the costs to create the additional school places once the feasibility exercise has been completed.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

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Constitutional Comments (KK 25/06/19)

13. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (GB 04/07/19)

14. The investment required to fund a feasibility study to secure the expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy is expected to cost £27,500. These costs will be funded from the 2019/20 School Places Programme which totals £18.0m and is already approved within the capital programme. If the feasibility study does not result in a capital project the costs will become abortive and will need to be funded from the 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.

Proposed Basic Need Programme of School Expansions 2019/20 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11th February 2019

Basic Need Allocation for the Carlton Academy (The Redhill Academy Trust) - report to Policy Committee on 22nd May 2019

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1273