

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Agenda Item: 11

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH**

### **PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

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

#### **Information**

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty to secure a sufficiency of school places for all children of statutory school age (5-16 years old) whose parents want them to be educated in a state-funded school. As the Local Authority's role shifts to that of being a 'commissioner' of school places, it will be necessary to work in a different way with a diverse range of providers and different models of governance. The future landscape of education provision in Nottinghamshire is expected to be a 'mixed economy' approach, characterised by a wide variety of schools, academies and other providers.
3. At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Policy Committee received a report outlining increasing pressure for pupil places in the Rushcliffe East secondary planning area, largely resulting from a number of significant housing developments, and identified the potential of the expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy from four forms of entry to five to help meet this demand and to strengthen curriculum range and delivery. Committee gave approval for the completion a Grant Funding Agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide funding of £25,000 for a feasibility report which would show whether or not the school and its site was able to expand and offer additional places.
4. With this funding from the Council the Trust has commissioned a team to consider the feasibility of the extension of the school from four forms of entry to five with such work suggesting that this can be achieved and the school is now seeking funding from the Council to progress through detailed design, planning, tendering and through to construction.
5. The project will allow the academy to grow from a 4 form entry (4 FE) setting with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120, to a 5 FE school with a PAN of 150. In doing so, the school will be able to admit an additional 30 more children at primary to secondary transfer each September. When the project is completed the school will have capacity for

another 150 students. The additional pupil places will meet an anticipated shortfall of places by 2022-23 in the planning area.

6. This proposed scheme will include a 10 classroom extension and the reconfiguration of existing buildings, some of which were classrooms previously. The 10 new classrooms include some replacements of those that have been reconfigured and will be used as specialist areas. As an academy, SNA has decided this model to deliver the curriculum for a 5 FE setting. The Trust has submitted a full planning application for the scheme, which was validated by Rushcliffe Borough Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The Trust has also issued a Consultation Notice to parents and nearby schools, the closing date for which is 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The Trust has confirmed that should approval be given in September 2021, they will be able to remain on-programme to deliver places for the 2022/23 academic year. Cost is anticipated to be £1.95 million.
7. It is recommended that Arc Partnership be commissioned by the Council to act on its behalf through the project to give assurance that the project is being progressed to provide the expected accommodation including review of the proposals and to be comfortable that the designs provide for the Council's pupil places requirements with the costs benchmarked and acceptable.
8. It is proposed that the Council will enter into a funding agreement with the Trust. The funding will be limited to the amount identified and the risk of cost of higher costs will remain with the Trust. Funding will be paid in instalments in accordance with the Council's standard funding agreement terms to reflect progress with the project. The Council will also incur the cost of the Arc Partnership's assurance role estimated at £40,000.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. The proposed extension is necessary if the Council is to be able to continue to provide required school places in the area. Design options will be considered to ensure a value for money approach is adopted.

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

10. To enable an appropriate strategy to be put in place to ensure that secondary school pupils can be accommodated in the Rushcliffe East planning area.

### **Financial Implications**

11. The project will be funded by two contributions arising from Section 106 Agreements, together with Basic Need funding. The project is included in the 2021/22 - 2022/23 Basic Need funding programme.
12. Funding for this project is a mix of Section 106 contributions and Basic Need funding, as set out below:

Section 106 Contributions:

13/02329: £1,136,192

18/02269: £ 159,777

Basic Need: £ 704,031

**Total: £2,000,000**

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. 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**

14. South Nottinghamshire Academy is included in the Basic Need projections across 2021/22 and 2022/23.

## **Implications for Service Users**

15. Pupils will be able to attend a school close to home, reducing travel time and traffic congestion.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

16. The new development will be constructed using environmentally-friendly materials and will be energy-efficient.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Committee approves:

- 1) the completion of a funding agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide funding to a maximum of £1,950,000 for the expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy to five forms of entry in a form to be agreed by Legal Services.
- 2) the commissioning of Arc Partnership to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,000.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 19/08/21)**

17. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (GB 18/08/21)**

18. It is proposed that the project set out in this report will be funded from Basic Need funding (£0.7m) and Section 106 contributions (£1.3m). The Basic Need funded element is already approved in the Children and Young People's capital programme. A request to vary the Children and Young People's capital programme to incorporate the £1.3m Section 106 contributions was submitted to Finance Committee on 6 September 2021.

### **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.

[Expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy - report to Policy Committee on 15th July 2020](#)

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

Radcliffe-on-Trent      Councillor Roger Upton

C1501