

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN WEST BRIDGFORD

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of secondary school places in West Bridgford to meet future projected need by approving:
 - a) the principle of Basic Need funding to allow the expansion of Rushcliffe School to 12 forms of entry in the short and medium term;
 - b) that the costs of demolishing the former Rushcliffe Leisure Centre are taken from the Council's wider demolition programme;
 - c) the principle of the construction of a third secondary school within the West Bridgford planning area in the short to medium term, with a catchment area which covers the combined catchment of Rushcliffe School and the Nottinghamshire catchment of the West Bridgford School.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) 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. There are presently two secondary schools serving West Bridgford - West Bridgford School (EMET Trust) and Rushcliffe School (Spencer Academies Trust - SAT) as shown on the **appended** Plan. These are high performing popular secondary schools in a highly populated area. Across the Rushcliffe District, eight primary schools were expanded during the period 2013/19 creating an additional 682 permanent places in the following primary schools: Heymann, Carnarvon, Pierrepont Gamston, Edwalton, Costock, Lantern Lane, Brookside and Radcliffe on Trent Infant school. 315 of the new places were at linked primary schools, these being: Heymann - 210 places, expansion in 2013 and Pierrepont Gamston - 105 places, expansion in 2014. This demand, coupled with that from the large housing development at Sharpill, has resulted in the projected need for an additional four forms of secondary school places (additional 600 secondary school places) in the next five years (by 2025).

4. Although both secondary schools are near to the City border, the number of out of county children in attendance in both schools is now very low. However, The West Bridgford School's decision four years ago to extend their catchment into Nottingham City (Wilford) has added further complexities to projections.
5. A report was taken to Children and Young People's Committee in December 2017 and approval was given to pursue plans that would result in the expansion of both secondary schools. Negotiations have been complex. The Council requested that West Bridgford School should expand to a 10-form entry school (each year group would be 300 students). Whilst this agreement has not been secured, the Academy has admitted to 270 pupils (9 forms of entry) for September 2019, this does not represent a permanent change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) which remains at 216. However, forecasts suggest that West Bridgford School will not be able to accommodate all its catchment and linked children from September 2020. This will inevitably create further pressure on Rushcliffe School as the only other school in the planning area.
6. Rushcliffe School has committed to a 12-form entry (360 statutory age pupils per year). SAT has been supportive of the need to continue with immediate and interim arrangements to expand pupil numbers at the school; this was the subject of a report to this Committee in April 2019. Further expansion (e.g. to a 14-form entry school) is not considered desirable. Alternative plans must be developed to accommodate future pupils if the planned level of housing likely to be developed in the Rushcliffe district is realised.
7. The Rushcliffe School project will require a funding agreement with the SAT whilst the longer-term plan is agreed and the costings for the overall project are finalised. To accommodate 12 forms of entry in every year group as well as the inevitable increase in the sixth form, the space on which the former Leisure Centre stands will be required as the campus is developed. The Council will bear the costs associated with the demolition of the former Leisure Centre. The demolition costs will be included within the Council's demolition programme.

Medium and Long Term Strategy

8. Based on January 2019 available projection data (assuming housing is delivered at the rate set out in the Rushcliffe Local Plan) by 2023 the West Bridgford planning area will require at least 23 forms of entry, rising to 26 forms of entry by 2032. West Bridgford School has confirmed that it will continue to accommodate eight forms of entry going forward and negotiations continue.
9. As Rushcliffe School is only expected to accommodate 12 forms of entry, January 2019 projections suggest that if the West Bridgford School maintains eight forms of entry only and the Rushcliffe School increases to 12 forms of entry by September 2020, the projected demand suggests a new school will be required to offer one form of entry in September 2021 and two forms of entry by September 2022. Demand will rise to five forms of entry by 2028 and six forms of entry by 2032. These projections are based on current projected rates of housing delivery.
10. The preferred option to meet the projected need is to build a third secondary school within the West Bridgford planning area with a catchment area which covers the combined

catchment of Rushcliffe School and the Nottinghamshire catchment of the West Bridgford School.

Other Options Considered

11. As detailed in this report, the options to expand existing secondary schools have been assessed and are rejected.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. To ensure an appropriate strategy is in place to ensure that secondary school pupils can be accommodated in West Bridgford and the wider Rushcliffe District.

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. The Council will bear the costs associated with the demolition of the former Leisure Centre. The demolition costs will be included within the Council's demolition programme.

Implications for Service Users

15. The provision of additional school places within the West Bridgford planning area will help to ensure pupils can be accommodated at their school of choice.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

16. The provision of schools serving their immediate local area will reduce the need to travel.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the County Council continues to work with the Spencer Academies Trust to review their current plan for a 12-form entry at Rushcliffe School by September 2020 and to agree the principle of using Basic Need funding to deliver the additional places.
- 2) the County Council identifies land that could accommodate a new secondary school within the West Bridgford planning area and in principle make appropriate funding commitments for the build costs, to be supported by S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

- 3) the inclusion of the demolition of the former Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is included in the Council's wider demolition programme and costed in that programme.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS, MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Stephen Pointer
Team Manager, Planning Policy
T: 0115 993 9388
E: stephen.pointer@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (EP 12/08/19)

17. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (JPEG 22/8/19)

18. It is proposed that the costs of demolition will be funded from the Site Clearance Programme which is already included in the approved Capital Programme for 2019/20.

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 2018/19 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18th December 2017

Basic Need Allocation for the Rushcliffe School - report to Policy Committee on 24th April 2019

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| West Bridgford North | Councillor E. Plant |
| West Bridgford South | Councillor J. Wheeler |
| West Bridgford West | Councillor G. Wheeler |

C1290