



meeting CABINET

date 13 September 2006

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Proposed Replacement Academy for Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College

Purpose of report

1. This report updates Members on the progress made in discussion with the DfES to create an academy to replace Sherwood Hall School and invites approval for submission of the necessary forms (an Expression of Interest).

Information and advice

Background

2. The background to this decision remains substantially the same as that given in some detail in the report received by Cabinet on 29 March 2006. A copy of the relevant section of that report is copied as **Appendix 1**. The original appendices to that paper are also attached as **Appendices 2 and 3**.
3. Since the presentation of the report on 29 March 2006 the governors and senior staff of the school have worked closely with officers of the authority and the DfES consultant adviser, as well as the sponsors, the Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell. Two special meetings of the full governing body were held at the school on 28 June and 17 July to study in detail the Expression of Interest. The document now presented has the full support of the governing body. In addition further meetings have been held involving the sponsors and senior officers of the authority with the whole school staff and the school's student council. These meetings reflected the broadly based support for the academy option which is outlined in the analysis of the written responses to the consultation on the proposal for the future of the school (**Appendix 3**).
4. As detailed in Section 5 of the EOI document (**Appendix 4**), a tight timetable will need to be followed to acquire academy status by 1

September 2007, with the full capital development programme to be completed by 2009/10 to provide the new school.

5. Certain issues about which Cabinet and local members would wish to be satisfied prior to giving political approval have been clarified over recent weeks. A statement on admissions is attached as **Appendix 5** which makes clear the commitment to children living in the catchment area of the school, in line with local authority admission arrangements. Members will also note that a significant capital receipt will accrue to the authority if the proposal is accepted. Section 4.4 of the EOI shows that the authority will retain over 60,000 square metres of the current main site and the whole of the present sixth form site. The DfES and school governors are content with these proposals. A map of the main site area for the proposed academy and the area to be retained is attached as **Appendix 6**. Members will be pleased to note the commitment made in Sections 3.25 and 3.26 of the EOI to pupils with special educational needs, to partnership working and the support for the agendas of integrated children's services and adult and community education.

Public Engagement Policy

6. As detailed above and in the report of 29 March 2006 there has been extensive public consultation on the issue in accord with the County Council's public engagement policy. Further consultations will follow any publication of statutory notices to effect the change.

Statutory and policy implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is, however, drawn to the following:

Personnel implications

8. The effect of employment of staff of the various options are described in the report material and in the report of 29 March 2006. Any transfer of employment resulting from any establishment of an academy would be covered by TUPE arrangements.

Financial implications

9. Any closure of the school would mean that the meeting of the deficit budget would be the responsibility of the local authority rather than the school. A substantial capital receipt would accrue from sale of retained land.

Equal opportunities implications

10. The adoption by the Diocese of the admission criteria appended to this report will provide equality of opportunity locally. The new school would provide significant additional opportunities for the young people and community members in an area of significant social and economic disadvantage.

Implications for service users

11. The approach to the future of Sherwood Hall School is intended to create a “step change” which would improve the quality of provision at the school for the benefit of pupils, parents and other community members.

Strategic Property implications

12. The land on which the school stands will partly transfer to the sponsors if an academy is approved, with the remainder retained as detailed above.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That:
 - (1) the progress on creating an academy to replace Sherwood Hall School to be noted.
 - (2) the Director of Children and Young People’s Services be empowered to submit the Expression of Interest document with formal, signed approval.
 - (3) the Director of Children and Young People’s Services reports back to Cabinet in due course the further results of the process together with any proposals to issue statutory notices for the closure of the school to enable the academy process.

COUNCILLOR JOYCE BOSNJAK

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services

Reasons for recommendation

14. To approve the educational provision at and secure the future of Sherwood Hall School.

Other options considered

15. These are set out in the report to Cabinet on 29 March 2006.

Legal Services' comments (LM24/8/06)

16. Cabinet has the delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report in order to discharge the County Council's functions as Local Education Authority.

Director of Resources' financial comments (NDR)

17. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background papers available for inspection

None.

Electoral division(s) affected

Mansfield

M19C1632