

18 December 2017

Agenda Item: 14

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE FREE SCHOOL PRESUMPTION COMPETITION TO SECURE A SPONSOR FOR THE NEW SCHOOL ON WATNALL ROAD, HUCKNALL

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval to run a publicity campaign to:
 - a) alert potential school sponsors to the Free School Presumption competition arising from the need for a new school, generated by new housing on the Watnall Road, Hucknall
 - b) invite potential school sponsors to submit a proposal to Nottinghamshire County Council to become the named promoter of the new school on the Watnall Road, Hucknall.

Information and Advice

2. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for Nottinghamshire children.
3. Where a local authority thinks a new school needs to be established, section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) places the local authority under a duty to seek proposals to establish an academy (free school) and to specify a date by which proposals must be submitted to the local authority.
4. The local authority is required to take all necessary steps to ensure that the widest possible range of groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new free school is aware of the opportunity to do so and has sufficient time to develop proposals.
5. Advice relating to the processes by which new schools are established under section 6A, which is known as the free school presumption, can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-new-maintained-schools>
6. All information relating to the Watnall Road free school presumption will be lodged with the Secretary of State at: freeschool.presumption@education.gsi.gov.uk

Other Options Considered

7. As outlined above local authorities are required to alert all potential sponsors in a fair and transparent way and must therefore engage in a communications process.

Reason for Recommendation

8. To enable the County Council to comply with the duty to seek proposals in a fair and transparent way by running a publicity campaign to:
 - a) alert potential school sponsors to the Free School Presumption competition arising from the need for a new school, generated by new housing on the Watnall Road, Hucknall
 - b) invite potential school sponsors to submit a proposal to Nottinghamshire County Council to become the named promoter of the new school on the Watnall Road, Hucknall,

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. It is anticipated that there will not be any costs for the publicity campaign but if there are they will be minimal and contained within the service's allocated budget and centrally via the Council's Communications team.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That approval is given to run a publicity campaign to:

- 1) alert potential school sponsors to the Free School Presumption competition arising from the need for a new school, generated by new housing on the Watnall Road, Hucknall
- 2) invite potential sponsors to submit a proposal to Nottinghamshire County Council to become the named promoter of the new school on the Watnall Road, Hucknall.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 01/12/17)

11. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 07/12/17)

12. The financial implications of this report are contained in paragraph 10 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1056