

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Joint Report of the Executive Director People and  
Executive Director Place to Cabinet

### **Darton Academy and Outwood Academy Carlton - Work to Accommodate Additional Pupils**

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

- 1.1 To provide an update on the demand for school places in the Central Planning area in September 2019 and September 2020;
- 1.2 Request approval for the capital funding necessary to deliver a programme of works required in re-modelling Darton Academy to meet the demand for school places in the Central area of the Borough;
- 1.3 Request approval for the capital funding to provide a mobile classroom / portakabin to be installed at Outwood Academy Carlton to meet the demand for school places in the Central area of the Borough.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 **Cabinet note the position with regard to the demand for school places in the Central Planning area in September 2019 and September 2020;**
- 2.2 **Cabinet Approval is given to fund the estimated £642,477 capital cost for the re-modelling work required at Darton Academy utilising the Basic Need Grant awarded by the Department for Education to address the shortfall in pupil places in the central planning area in September 2019 and September 2020.**
- 2.3 **Cabinet Approval is given to fund the estimated £150,000 capital cost of providing a mobile classroom / portakabin at Outwood Academy Carlton utilising the Basic Need Grant awarded by the Department for Education to address the shortfall in pupil places in the central area in September 2019.**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

- 3.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area.
- 3.2 There are three schools that serve the central planning area, providing 4,100 secondary school places; Horizon Community College (2,000 pupils), Barnsley Academy (900 pupils) and Darton College (1,200 pupils).
- 3.3 Current projections indicate a rising demand for school places in the central planning area. There is a demand for an additional 83 places in September 2019 and 60 places in 2020.

- 3.4 The demand for school places from September 2021 onwards has been addressed in a separate Cabinet Report (CAB 12.12.2018/6) with proposals to look at various options, one of which is for a new Free School to be built and run by a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).
- 3.5 The Authority has a statutory responsibility to address the demand for a total of 83 places for the academic year 2019/2020 and a further 60 places for the academic year 2020/2021, making a total of 143 places in the central planning area. It should be noted that providing for these 143 places it will not affect the viability of the proposal for a Free School to open at the earliest in 2021.
- 3.6 Horizon has agreed to accommodate an additional 20 pupils on a temporary basis in both 2019/2020 and 2020/21 without the need to make any changes to the building.
- 3.7 The Authority initially approached both Barnsley Academy and Darton Academy to determine whether they would each be prepared to accommodate a bulge class of 30 pupils in September 2019 and September 2020 to address this shortfall. Barnsley Academy has since indicated that it is not be in a position to accept additional pupils.
- 3.8 Notwithstanding the fact that Outwood Academy Carlton does not form part of the central planning area the school is in close proximity to the planning area, is currently judged as a Good school by Ofsted and the school admission applications received for the 2019/2020 academic year supports the need for them to now be included in the current proposals, with a view to them accommodating an additional 30 pupils as a bulge class in September 2019.
- 3.9 Darton Academy, which is now part of Delta Academy Trust, has agreed to accommodate an additional 63 pupils over the 2 years, which will require some internal remodelling building work to create the additional classrooms and other space required.
- 3.10 Darton Academy is a PFI School and any projects undertaken have to be carried out in line with the PFI Project Agreement and are subject to agreement by the funders. It is intended that the majority of the work will be carried out in stages through Medium Value Change Variations and that a High Value Change that requires a Deed of Variation to the Project Agreement will only be required for one area of work with a view to optimising best value.
- 3.11 A meeting has taken place between the Authority, NPS Design Team and Amey's Project Manager to capture the work required and to work up preliminary designs and indicative costings have been provided.
- 3.12 Outwood Academy Carlton has agreed in principle to accommodate an additional 30 pupils in September 2019, which will require the procurement and installation of a mobile classroom / portakabin on the school site. It should be noted that this is subject to formal approval by the Outwood Academy Trust Board.
- 3.13 Outwood Academy Carlton is a Design and Build School and is therefore not subject to agreement by the funders as is the case in a PFI School.

3.14 If the above proposals are accepted current data suggests that there will still be a shortage of 10 places in September 2020. The Authority feels that it will be in a position to accommodate these places across the secondary schools estate as a whole without the need for any further work to take place. It is worth noting that pupil projection data fluctuates periodically as pupil movement occurs.

#### **4 0 Proposal and Justification**

4.1 It is proposed that the Authority progresses with detailed designs to re-model areas within Darton Academy by September 2019 since this will be both more cost effective for the Authority and less disruptive to school opposed to doing the work in two separate stages in 2019 and 2020. The proposed design has been agreed following consultation with the School and comprises of the following:

- Re-configure the ground floor science department into 3 separate classrooms and infill the viewing gallery void above the science classroom to create a classroom on the first floor.
- Re-configure the Food Technology Room by installing 4 additional work areas to free up the Post 16 kitchen for use in the main catering service periods
- Install partitions to 3 open learning spaces around the atrium to create enclosed classrooms which will remove the disruption to learning during the split lunch service periods.
- Re-configure the first floor Creative Suite / Art Barn to provide 4 separate classrooms by installing partitions. Infill the void above the textiles and electronics area with a mezzanine floor to create a further learning space and install partitions above and below the mezzanine floor to split areas into 2 classrooms on each floor.
- Review car parking area to determine if adequate.

4.2 It is proposed that the Authority progresses with the procurement of a mobile classroom / portakabin to be installed at Outwood Academy Carlton by September 2019.

#### **5.0 Consideration of Alternative Proposals**

5.1 Given that there is only a demand for an extra 143 secondary school places, accommodation will have to be at existing schools. Of the three schools in the central area Barnsley Academy indicated that it will not be in a position to accept additional pupils.

5.2 For the above reasons Barnsley Academy is rejected as a possible alternative solution.

#### **6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users**

6.1 The implication is positive in that the demand for additional school places in the Central Planning area of the Borough will be met locally.

## 7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 A total shortfall of 143 secondary school places have been identified for September 2019 (83 places) and 2020 (60 places) respectively. It is proposed that most of the additional places are accommodated in the following schools; Horizon, Darton Academy and Outwood Academy Carlton. It should be noted that Horizon has agreed to accommodate an additional 20 pupils in each year without the need to make any changes to the building, whilst some remodelling works would be required at Darton Academy and possibly at Outwood Academy Carlton.

### Capital costs – Darton Academy

7.2 A total of 63 additional places would be accommodated at Darton Academy, 33 in September 2019 and an additional 30 in 2020. Accommodating these additional places will require some internal remodelling building work to create the additional classrooms and other space required (see paragraph 4.1). The capital cost is estimated at **£642k**, and is comprised of: design fees (£27k); works (£409k); project management (£41k); professional fees (£66k); furniture, equipment & ICT costs (£100k).

7.3 Although a significant element of the above cost is indicative, effort has been made to ensure a reasonable degree of certainty. Preliminary designs (based on minimum educational requirements) have been agreed with the Academy Trust, with the indicative cost of works worked up (by NPS and Amey project management) to give greater certainty towards RIBA Stage 3. However, actual value of the works will not be confirmed until designs are finalised and tenders received.

7.4 As highlighted in para 3.10, Darton Academy is a PFI school – capital works are subject to the PFI agreement and approval of the funders. Professional fees £66k (legal and funders fees) arising from Change Notices or deeds of variation are unavoidable and have been factored into the indicative costs. Whilst these costs have been estimated on the same basis as the Penistone Grammar school extension works, it is yet to be confirmed and could change in line with the LEP specific requirements.

7.5 On completion of the re-modelling work at Darton Academy there will be an increase in operating costs associated with Facilities Management and Lifecycle which will be reflected in the annual unitary charge paid to the Barnsley Local Education Partnership. Such costs are unable to be quantified until the design stage has been completed. Funding of the annual operating costs will be met by the Academy Trust from their own budget through the increased funding they will receive as a result of the increase in pupil intake.

### Capital costs – Outwood Academy Carlton

7.6 To accommodate additional 30 school places from Sept 2019 at Outwood Academy Carlton, the procurement and installation of a mobile classroom / portakabin on the school site has been proposed. A cost of **£150k** (inclusive of fees) is estimated for the installation, based on a similar work / cost at another PFI school in Barnsley.

- 7.7 Following installation of a mobile classroom / portakabin at Outwood Academy Carlton there will be a slight increase in operating costs associated with Facilities Management which will be quantified on completion. Funding of the annual operating costs will be met by the Academy Trust from their own delegated budget.

#### Funding & Value for Money

- 7.8 The total cost of accommodating the shortfall in school places (143) in the central area by Sept 2020 is estimated at **£792k**, which equates to around £5.5k per school place. Assurance around value for money can be demonstrated by comparing the cost per school place (£5.5k) to the ESFA basic need funding rate of £16k per secondary place.
- 7.9 The ESFA have recently awarded the Council Basic Need Grant Allocation (£6.4m) in 2020/21 to address the projected shortfall in school places in the central planning area (which is being addressed / progressed through the Free School Application route). Therefore it is proposed that the above indicative costs is funded utilising the Basic Need grant allocation. However, the funding will not be received until financial year 2020/21, but school places are required to be provided for September 2019/20. It is proposed that the Council cash flow the project until the grant funding is received.
- 7.10 However, it needs to be noted that there is a risk that the ESFA could recoup the £6.4m basic need grant as part of funding a new Free School in Barnsley. In such event, alternative funding will need to be identified, which could result in having to re-prioritise or defer funding allocated for other schemes / priorities.

#### **8.0 Employee Implications**

There are no direct employee implications.

#### **9.0 Communications Implications**

There are no direct Communication implications at this stage in the process.

#### **10.0 Consultations**

Consultation will take place with Building Control, Highways and Transportation as part of the design development process.

#### **11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 11.1 Darton has recently become an Academy School within the Delta Academy Trust which has a track record of improving schools performance. As such it should support the Councils priority as set out in the Corporate Plan for 2017 – 2020 People Achieving Their Potential is as follows;

‘Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work.’

- 11.2 The Re-Modelling work will provide additional pupil places and also enhance the learning experience within the School, thus contributing towards this priority.

11.3 Outwood Academy Carlton was rated as 'good' in all categories of inspection by Ofsted in December 2015 and as such meets the Councils priority as set out in the Corporate Plan for 2017 – 2020 People Achieving Their Potential which is:

'Every child attends a good school and is successful in learning and work.'

11.4 The provision of additional places at a school rated 'good' also indirectly supports the Thriving and Vibrant Economy 20:20 Outcome 5 of creating more and better housing as potential residents are more likely to move into an area that can accommodate future educational needs of their children. In turn this would increase the opportunity of potential income streams for the Authority from New Homes Bonus, Council Tax and Business Rates.

## **12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

12.1 Re-modelling Darton Academy will enable children to be accommodated nearer their own homes thereby encouraging social inclusion. A shortfall in local school places is likely to have a greater impact on those with protected characteristics such as disabled people and people on low incomes.

12.2 Both academies are state of the art facilities which were built around the principle of inclusion.

## **13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty**

There are no direct implications.

## **14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities**

There are no direct implications.

## **15.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder**

There are no implications

## **16.0 Risk Management Issues**

<b>Risk Detail</b>	<b>Probability and Impact</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to complete projects within agreed timescales and hence deliver sufficient secondary places thus breaching statutory duty.	Probability - low Impact - high	3 (Amber)	There is an agreed procurement route and the Authority is working closely with the Local Education Partnership to ensure the projects are delivered on time.
The initial budgeted cost may not be sufficient to meet the final tendered cost	Probability – medium Impact - high	2 (Red)	Tendered procurement exercise to establish Value for Money. Proposed to carry out work under a number of Medium Value Changes and one High Value Change to

Risk Detail	Probability and Impact	Score	Mitigation
			reduce professional and legal fees incurred.
Cost escalation – Works/Other –There is a risk that the architectural requirements will result in a design that exceeds the project cost. Also poor cost control and poor project management could lead to an escalation in cost.	Probability - medium Impact - low	5 (Green)	Responsibility for managing the project within the budget will lie with the BLEP.
Insufficient pupil numbers to utilize created space	Probability - low Impact - high	3 (Amber)	The forecast for additional school places shows a clear demand for school places in the central area of the Borough and actual applications already received supports the demand for places at both Darton Academy and Outwood Academy Carlton.

## **17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues**

The project will be managed by the Barnsley Local Education Partnership who will be responsible for complying with Health and Safety Legislation.

## **18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights**

There are no implications.

## **19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity**

There are no implications.

## **20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**

## **21.0 List of Appendices**

Appendix A Financial Implications

## **22.0 Details of Background Papers**

None

Officer Contact: M.T. Rawlins and Nina Sleight

Date: 11/12/2018