

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3828

Author:

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Department:

Children and Adults

Contact:

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Subject:

Undertaking of Feasibility Studies for Pre-Selected Secondary School Sites

Total Value:

£74,932 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1. To commission Design Services to carry out high level feasibility studies of separate secondary school sites within the city. Design Services will provide necessary professional services to deliver the feasibility studies.**
- 2. To commission Major Projects to act as the client representative on behalf of Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, for completion of the feasibility studies as a whole including the management of Design Services.**

Reasons for the Decision(s) Nottingham City Council is striving to meet school place needs in a way that promotes parental choice, diversity and enabling access to good and outstanding schools close to home, with a view to improving achievement and attainment.

Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for children in Nottingham. Over the past few years, the City has increased the number of primary school places and is now planning for an expected increase in secondary places. Due to the growing need for additional secondary capacity, contingency plans need to be progressed to enable the need to be met through expansion of existing academies, to secure outcomes which align with the Council's strategic place planning strategy. Collaborative work is already underway with a number of Good and Outstanding secondary schools, predominantly in the central and west areas of the city, to explore potential options for expansion.

In order to ensure that places can be delivered within the required timescales, it is recommended that the Council commission feasibility studies to establish what works could be undertaken at a number of different sites to deliver the additional places required. This must include an overview of costs, risks, building methods and timescales to allow for decision making.

Major Projects and Design Services are supporting this work to explore how the academies can manage their existing school estates more effectively and expand if required. Feasibility reports and options appraisal will be completed to inform decision making.

Other Options Considered:

- 1. Do Nothing:** If nothing is progressed at this stage, the Council risk not providing sufficient secondary school provision for the city.
- 2. Commission external consultants to manage the feasibility studies:** Major Projects have already undertaken a high level analysis of several schools, to give an early indication of what space might be required to expand the schools and therefore have a good understanding of the sites. The commissioning of Design Services is a cost-effective option for this work to allow decision making at a later stage.

Background Papers: na

Published Works: na

Affected Wards: Berridge, Leen Valley, Wollaton West

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications involved in this decision.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: There are no changes to policies or practices involved in this decision.

Relates to Council Property Assets:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

24/03/2020

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Property, Building Services

Legal Advice:

This report raises no significant legal issues as it seeks approval to allocation of an internal budget. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 14/02/2020.

Finance Advice:

The costs of these works are to be initially charged to revenue as they do not meet the required capitalisation criteria. However, should the feasibility study result in capital works being undertaken the costs can be moved into the Capital Programme when the decision is taken to progress the capital scheme.

These feasibility costs are to be indirectly funded from Basic Need Grant. Due to the Basic Needs Grant having conditions that it can only be applied to capital works, the grant allocation within the decision will be used within the Education Capital Programme to release an appropriate revenue funding source.

Advice provided by Tom Straw (Senior Accountant - Capital Programmes) on 25/02/2020.

Property Advice:

Property support the feasibility study undertaken by Design Services on selected sites to review secondary school capacity. Advice provided by Peter Taylor (Senior Surveyor) on 11/02/2020.

Building Services Advice:

The commissioning of Design Services is a cost-effective option for this work. Advice provided by Trevor Bone (Property Maintenance Manager) on 13/02/2020.

Signatures

Neghat Khan (PH Early Years, Education and Employment)

SIGNED and Dated: 16/03/2020

Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)

SIGNED and Dated: 13/03/2020