

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 17 May 2016

Subject:	Proposed expansion of Mellers Primary and Nursery School		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director, Children and Adults		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sam Webster, Portfolio Holder for Schools		
Report author and contact details:	Robert Caswell, Programme Manager Telephone: 0115 8763408		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision			<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Total value of the decision: £3.000m			
Wards affected: Radford and Park		Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 12 April 2016	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
The Radford area is experiencing significant primary school place pressures, with a continued upward trend of pupil growth in the coming years.			
Between 3 November and 30 November 2014, the governing body of Mellers Primary undertook a four week consultation on the proposal to expand the school from 210 to 420 places and from a 26 to 52 full time equivalent place nursery. Following a positive response in favour of the proposal, the governing body agreed the school should expand.			
This report asks for approval to allocate funding towards works to expand Mellers Primary as detailed above. In addition, this report asks for approval to enter into contract with Wates Construction to undertake the extension works.			
Exempt information:			
None			
Recommendation(s):			
1 To approve the allocation of funding of £3.0m for works to expand Mellers Primary School from a 210 place to a 420 place primary school with 52 full time equivalent place nursery. Overall this will increase the project budget to £3.35m.			
2 Approve the procurement of the works as set out in the Business Case in Appendix A.			
3 To delegate authority to the Head of Legal Services to enter into contract on behalf of Nottingham City Council with Wates Construction to deliver the expansion, subject to costs being within the agreed build budget of £3.22m and value for money demonstrated.			

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. Nottingham City Council is facing increasing pressure to provide additional places for primary children due to an increasing birth rate and inward migration. To date, a number of schools have already been expanded to provide additional school places, this has been done primarily using Basic Need grant. This grant allocated by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to support Local Authorities to fund additional school places. Mellers Primary is oversubscribed for September 2016 therefore the school are taking a bulge year to accommodate additional pupils ahead of permanent expansion in September 2017. The expansion of Mellers Primary will help address the need for additional school places in that area of the city.
- 1.2. Design development is now complete and the project has been subject to market testing to provide a robust cost estimate. In order to deliver the expansion, approval to allocate the required funding and to enter into contract is required.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Local Authorities must ensure that there are school places available in areas of need, promote diversity and increase parental choice. The national shortage of primary school places has been reflected across the City and extra capacity has been added in many schools. In the Radford area there is a continued upward pressure on school places.
- 2.2 Between 3 November and 30 November 2014, Mellers Primary undertook a four week consultation on the proposal to expand the school from 210 to 420 places. Following a positive response in favour of the proposal, the governing body agreed the school should expand. A total of 20 people responded to the consultation, by either completing the online questionnaire or returning a paper copy of the consultation form. Of these, 15 (75%) were in favour of the proposal, 3 (15%) were against the proposal and 2 (10%) had no opinion. The full consultation report is contained in Appendix C.
- 2.3 Initial approvals have authorised the procurement of design and survey works to allow the development of the project to progress in order to ensure the new building will be available as soon as possible.
- 2.4 Details of the proposed project including designs, cost and programme are included in the Business Case at Appendix A.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Doing nothing was rejected as there are no other schools in the required area able to accommodate this size of expansion at this time.

4 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

4.1 Background

In July 2015, Portfolio Holder approved £0.200m for the procurement of the design team and early works to allow the design to develop. The resulting option appraisal has clarified the funding requirements for the scheme.

Funding

This report is requesting approval for scheme costs of £3.0m; the table below sets out the proposed funding for the scheme.

Funding	Amount £m
Approved feasibility funding July 2015	£0.200m
Temporary accommodation funding approved December 2013	£0.150m
Estimated cost of project	£3.350m
Funding to be approved	£3.0m

Capital

- 4.2 The expansion of Mellers primary school, funded by Basic Needs Grant, was included as part of the Investment Strategy of schemes approved in principle (pending full business case) at Full Council in October 2014. £0.350m has previously been fully approved for temporary accommodation and feasibility studies, this report requests approval to commit £3.000m of funding from the Basic Needs Grant for the expansion of the school to 420 primary and 52 full time equivalent nursery places taking the total cost to £3.350m.
- 4.3 The development is part of the Primary Schools Re-Organisation Phase 2 programme to be funded by confirmed (until 17/18) Basic Needs Grant. The programme is currently balanced and remains within its available funding envelope of confirmed grant allocation, so there will be no net impact on the capital programme. Remaining expansions within the plan will be monitored to ensure that schemes being worked up remain within the available funding.
- 4.4 The capital programme will be amended accordingly.

Revenue

- 4.5 If the proposal to expand Mellers Primary were approved then the Local Authority would fund the school for an additional class each year from the Pupil Growth Contingency Fund for seven years. This funding would cover the period September to March of each year. Once the additional pupils were accounted for on the October Autumn Census after the September they were admitted, they would then be funded in the following financial year through the local funding formula in the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19. From the financial year 2019/20 the school would then be funded based on the national funding formula which is to be introduced in 2019/20.
- 4.6 The School Organisation Team will allocate funding to the school based on the eligibility criteria approved by Schools Forum. **Table 1** outlines the funding criteria values based on the admission of an additional 30 pupils.

Table 1: Funding Criteria Values	
Funding Streams	£
Teacher M3 (7/12ths)	17,824
Teaching Assistant Pt 22 (7/12ths)	14,242
Midday Supervisor Pt 8 (7/12ths)	2,150
Classroom set up costs	Up to £8,000
Utilities (7/12ths) based on £150 per pupil per year	£2,625

The staffing and ancillary costs will be for the seven months (7/12ths) to cover the months between when additional pupils join the school in September and when the increased numbers are recognised in the budget the following year.

- 4.7 The Reception bulge class admitted in September 2016 will be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant Pupil Growth Contingency Fund £0.045m.
- 4.8 The funding to meet the cost of the expansion of Mellers Primary has been set aside within the Basic Needs Grant. However, the ongoing maintenance costs of building would have to be met from the schools budget.
- 4.9 The funding of the early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds would be paid via the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) and would be based on actual participation up to 30 hours per week from September 2017. This is assuming that the Government's plan to extend the hours up to 30 hours goes ahead from September 2017. This is currently being consulted upon. The Local Authority currently funds up to 25 hours per week.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 The EMPA Framework Agreement provides a compliant and value for money option for the undertaking of these works. There are no significant Procurement issues with the recommendations set out within the report.
- 5.2 The report does not raise any significant legal issues. Legal advice was sought by the schools reorganisation team in connection with the proposed consultation method and it was confirmed that consultation by the school governing body was lawful.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)

- 6.1 The expansion of Mellers Primary School within its existing boundaries is supported as it helps address the need for additional school places in the area without the need to identify and acquire additional land and buildings to accommodate this requirement.

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no social value considerations as these works fall below the threshold.

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

8.1 There are no implications to the NHS constitution.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes

Attached as Appendix B, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

10.1 Delegated Decision (2061) - Approval of funding and procurement of design team for early design works to expand Mellers Primary and South Wilford Endowed CE VA Primary – 8 July 2015

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 None

12 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

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