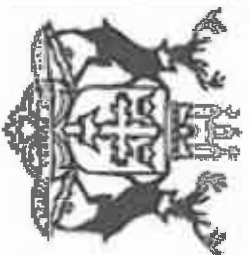


Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2528

Author:

Jennifer Hardy

Department:

Children and Families

Contact:

Jennifer Hardy

(Job Title: Project Manager, Email: jennifer.hardy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765629)

Subject:

Approval to issue Statutory Notices relating to the expansion of Westbury Special School

Total Value:

0 (Type: Nil)

Decision Being Taken:

Approval to issue Statutory Notices relating to the proposal to expand Westbury Special School, Billborough.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) team at Nottingham City Council undertook a review of capacity in special schools in Nottingham and recommended a proposal to expand Westbury Special School was developed. This recommendation was based on pupil projections which indicated Westbury would need 113 places by 2020 to meet predicted growth in children with Emotional and Behavioural problems in the city. As a result of this review, the Head of Access and Learning approved a five week consultation for the proposal to expand Westbury from 60 to 120 places, with parents, carers, staff, governors and local residents. During this period letters were sent to all interested parties and three meetings were arranged at the school. A web page was also created which allowed people to respond to the consultation online.

Response to the consultation was minimal, with 15 people completing the consultation forms or the online form and one parent attending the meeting on Wednesday 18 May. 60% of responses to the consultation were in favour of expanding, 26.7% were opposed to the expansion and 13.3% had no opinion. 66.7% of the responses came from staff, 26.7% from parents and 6.7% from governors.

Those in favour of the expansion said they wanted an increase in places for children at Westbury, that the school wasn't big enough currently and lacked enough specialist classrooms and that there is a shortage of SEN provision. Those against the proposal said the proposed size of the school was too big for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties, that they were concerned about the speed of the increase and the ability to recruit enough experienced staff and concerns about the management of additional buildings and communication around the school.

Although the school itself has room for 60 pupils at the moment, mobile classrooms were added to the site in 2015 to take the number of pupils on roll at the school to 90. The expansion will add a further 30 pupils from 2018.

Following a consultation with interested parties, Nottingham City Council must issue statutory notices for a four week period before final approval can be given to expand Westbury Special School. If approved, the building work is likely to commence in January 2017 and the places will be available from September 2018 on a phased basis.

Other Options Considered:

No other options were considered.

Background Papers:

Unpublished background papers:

Printed minutes 22122015 1400 Executive Board.pdf

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Bilborough

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Exempt Information:

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

5 - Information In respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because, in all the circumstances, the information sets out the legal risks inherent in the course of action proposed here, which the Portfolio Holder is arguably entitled to consider without Nottingham City Council's position being affected simply by the consideration of those risks.

Documents exempt from publication:

2015-06-30 DDM - Approval to iss stat notice for exp of Westbury Sch exempt legal obs ed law.pdf

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None.

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA is included in the Executive Board report of 22 December 2015, entitled 'Expansion of Special Schools - Phase 1'

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

No

Call In Expiry date:

n/a

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by Jonathan Ludford-Thomas (Senior Solicitor) on 30/06/2016.

Finance Advice:

This decision has a £nil value as there are no costs associated with issuing the statutory notices.

Capital funding for the Westbury expansion was approved at Executive Board on 22 December 2015. The revenue implications associated with increased special school places at Westbury special school will fall to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded High Needs Budget. From April 2017 this will be based on a new national high needs formula and the impact on the future funding available to the LA for high needs provision will not become clear until the DfE issue their 2nd stage funding reform consultation. Advice provided by Kathryn Mair Stevenson (Finance Analyst) on 22/06/2016.

Signatures

Sam Webster (PH for Education, Employment and Skills)

SIGNED and Dated: 12/07/2016

Allison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)

SIGNED and Dated: 30/06/2016