

Executive

7th May 2020

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities
Portfolio of the Executive Member for Children, Education and Communities

Fulford School –Remodelling of Internal Space and Transport Access Improvements

Summary

1. This report requests funding for two projects at Fulford School. The first project will address the requirement for more teaching space at the school to accommodate additional pupils for September 2020. This is needed to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers from within the school's catchment from September 2020. The second project provides a solution for the current and projected transport access issues at the school.
2. A further report will be brought back to Executive with the details of a more extensive capital scheme which will address the long term expansion needs of the school in order to ensure that the local authority is able to meet its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places. A budget of £6m has previously been approved in principle by the Executive in July 2019, pending the receipt of the detailed capital plan for the long term expansion of the school. This is currently being developed in conjunction with the School, Multi Academy Trust and its building consultants and the timeline for delivery of the project is being revisited in the light of the current national uncertainty about the plans for the phased re-opening of schools.

Recommendations

3. The Executive is asked to:
 - 1) Approve the allocation of £500k of basic need funding to enable remodelling of areas of the existing Fulford School building to accommodate additional pupils above the school's planned admission

number for September 2020. This will allow the school to admit the growth in pupil numbers from within its catchment meaning that all children in catchment can access their local secondary school.

Reason: To enable the council to meet its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in this area.

- 2) Approve funding of £550k in principle to carry out access improvements to the Fulford School site.

Reason: To make improvements to the access route to the school to reduce congestion and improve road safety in the area.

Background

Education

4. The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty under the 1996 Education Act to ensure a sufficient supply of good/outstanding school places in its local area. To deliver this duty the LA continues to work with all local partners and stakeholders including multi-academy trusts to ensure that we are able to meet the demands of demographic change, parental choice, approved and planned future housing developments.
5. In order to meet parental demand for secondary school places in York the local authority has to work with existing academies. Whilst the local authority has no powers of direction over academies the Department for Education expects academy trusts to work collaboratively with LAs to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to place management and the strategic needs of the area. In York a high level of collaborative working exists between the academy trusts and the local authority and this is helping to ensure that children are able to access good quality school places. This proposed project with Fulford School and the South York MAT would result in the delivery of additional places at a popular outstanding school.
6. School place planning projections which use demographic data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and information from local planning data have indicated that work is now required to add additional secondary school places at Fulford School. This is due to the growth in pupil numbers from within the school's catchment. Fulford is a popular and successful school and as a result there is a high demand for school places with the parents of secondary aged children moving in to the

catchment to secure a school place. Over time this has meant that the school has worked with the local authority to accept additional pupils above its planned admission number. Due to the constraints of the current school buildings this is no longer possible without further work to reconfigure areas of the school to create additional classroom spaces. Failure to do so will impact on the quality of the learning environment and on the health and well-being of pupils and staff.

7. In July 2019 the Council's Executive agreed to the allocation of a budget of £6 million from basic need funding in recognition of the need to address the growth in pupil numbers and work started with the South York Multi Academy Trust to consider options for expansion of the school building. The options being developed are to accommodate the projected growth in pupil numbers estimated to be in the region of 300 in the next 5 years. Feasibility work has therefore taken place and plans are being developed to provide a phased development of the site to accommodate this growth.
8. Fulford School have taken pupil numbers above their published admission number for the at least 3 years to accommodate all catchment area pupils whose parents have requested the school. The school have committed to do this for year 7 again for September 2020 up to a limit of 270, which is 30 above their admission number. The school are at the point where they cannot take any additional pupils above their planned admission number without remodelling work being carried out before September 2020.
9. In December 2018 the Executive Member for Transport and Planning approved funding to carry out a feasibility study to determine options for addressing the access and egress arrangements in and around Fulford School.
10. The Council commissioned consultant's WSP to undertake a study and investigate and identify options for the modification to the existing Fulford School access arrangements with the aim to reduce or mitigate concerns relating to bus access, parking, congestion and impact on pedestrian and cycle access to the school.
11. The study assessed the viability of a number of options and the impact on congestion in the area and reviewed deliverability against a range of factors including: planning, land availability, cost, potential delivery programme and value for money. The study has identified that it would be possible to significantly reduce the impact of school bus transport on

Fulfordgate and Heslington Lane by implementing changes to the layout of the school grounds and making use of a new access from the Germany Beck Development without additional land being required. Additional detailed investigation work will be required to confirm the viability of this potential solution.

Consultation

12. Consultation has taken place with South York Multi Academy Trust, the Trust's appointed education specialists and building consultants and the Council's Property Services to establish a scope of potential work and costs to enable the school to accommodate an additional 300 pupils.
13. To establish potentially viable options to address the access and egress on site, the consultants met with the School, Parish Council, the Developer, and the Council's planning and education teams.
14. Subject to confirmation of funding it is proposed that a wider public consultation on potential access changes would be undertaken as part of the preparation of a planning application required for the school expansion.

Options

Option 1 - Remodelling and Refurbishment/ Replacement of parts of the school site for September 2020

15. To accommodate the additional 30 pupils in September 2020 some internal remodelling will need to take place which will include the relocation of the pupil reception area and some existing changing rooms to allow for the extension of existing classrooms and the refurbishment of toilet facilities to accommodate an additional form of entry from September 2020.
16. The growth in pupil numbers in September 2020 means that there is a need to bring 2 double temporary classroom units back into use. Due to the condition of the existing units, the options to refurbish the existing units or replace them with refurbished units is being investigated. The refurbished units will be needed during phase 2 of the school expansion when the more extensive long term capital works will be taking place.
17. The proposal will also include changes to the school's lunchtime arrangements allowing for the introduction of a split lunch hour to ease

the pressure on existing dining facilities. This will also respond to the challenges created by the phased re-opening of schools and continued social distancing requirements which will require schools to have sufficient space to manage pupil numbers differently.

Option 2 – Do Nothing

18. By not providing the additional funding to enable the school to carry out these works, there would be insufficient space for the school to accommodate the additional 30 pupils they have been allocated in Year 7 for September 2020. This would mean that the school would be likely to begin an admissions appeal process which could result in some children from within catchment being unable to gain a school place at their catchment school.

Access Options

19. The provision of new public highway up to the school's southern boundary as part of the Germany Beck development provides the opportunity to change the routing of some school transport vehicles. The feasibility study reviewed a number of options to reduce the impact of the school transport provision on the adjacent highway network by providing a turn round facility or new one way through route.

Analysis

Education

Option 1 - Remodelling and Refurbishment/Replacement of parts of the school site for September 2020

20. This option will provide the school with the extra space required to be able to take all Year 7 pupils living in catchment in September 2020.
21. It will also enable the council to meet its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places. It ensures the council is providing a place for local children whose parents want them to attend their local catchment school.
22. This is a short term solution that addresses the immediate need for the 2020 Year 7 cohort and is linked to a further phase of capital development which will provide a permanent solution to support the

growth of the school. This capital plan is currently being developed and if approved will meet the needs for the 2021/22 school year and beyond.

Option 2 – Do Nothing

23. This option would result in significant risks to pupils and staff, including; the school not being able to provide the wide curriculum it currently offers, health and safety risks to both staff and pupils, increased class sizes which would impact on the quality of learning and the well-being of pupils and staff, reduced access for pupils to appropriate specialist rooms e.g. science for delivery of the school curriculum which would have an adverse impact on the pupils life chances.

Recommended Access Option

24. The feasibility study recommended further investigation and potential implementation of an option which proposed that school buses should access the school from the south through the Germany Beck site and exit the school site via Fulfordgate to the north. This option would result in a significant reduction in the number of buses using Fulfordgate and is considered to be the most deliverable as third party land is not required and the impact on the school operation is limited. Other options with similar local benefits could be progressed by the school if the land and planning issues could be resolved.
25. The request for £550k of funding in principle to address access issues on site is based on an indicative cost estimate for the recommended access option. Further work will be needed to confirm the detailed layout and costs. Additional travel planning measures would also be expected to be progressed to reduce the impact of the school operation as part of any expansion plans.
26. Subject to confirmation of funding it is proposed that a wider public consultation on potential access changes would be undertaken as part of the preparation of a planning application required for the school expansion.

Council Plan

A Safe Communities and Culture for All.

27. A building that is safe, warm and dry is needed to provide an effective environment for learning. The remodelling works will improve pupil flow around the building in areas that can currently be congested and raise safety concerns. The classrooms being refurbished are currently out of use due to the condition of the building which in areas are a health and safety risk to pupils and staff.
28. Improvements to the access and egress on site will improve the flow and traffic congestion experienced by both school on site and local residents off site. This will reduce the risk of accidents due to congestion.
29. Carrying out the refurbishment work will ensure the school has sufficient good quality facilities on site to provide local children a place at their local secondary school. If this does not happen then children living within the school's catchment would have to travel to other areas of the city for a school place.
30. Spending to improve facilities on site will eradicate existing condition issues and reduce the need for future repairs.

A Greener and Cleaner City

31. The refurbishment will bring facilities that are currently in poor condition back into use and improve the energy efficiency of the building stock on site.
32. An element of the access improvement work includes the provision of resident parking in the area.

A Better Start for Children and Young People

33. The refurbishment and remodelling scheme will provide the school with improved spaces for learning and pupil support which will improve learning and well-being.
34. A building with fewer condition issues allows learning to be the main focus and gives teachers, staff, parents and carers confidence in the learning environment.

35. A school site where health and safety is paramount gives confidence to its users, and the community.

An Open and Effective Council

36. Access and egress issues at the school site and possible solutions have and will continue to be consulted on with all stakeholders.

Implications

Financial

Remodelling and Refurbishment/Replacement of facilities for September 2020

37. The overall estimated cost for carrying out the remodelling and refurbishment works is £500,000. This can be funded from the currently unallocated element within the Basic Need scheme in the Children, Education and Communities capital programme.
38. This will fund the relocation of the pupil reception area and some existing changing rooms together with the extension of existing classrooms and refurbishment of toilet facilities at a cost of approximately £200k, and also fund the replacement or refurbishment of the two temporary classrooms on site, at an estimated cost of between £240k and £300k.

Recommended Access Option

39. The feasibility study has determined that a viable option to reduce the impact of school transport on the adjacent highway network could be delivered for an estimated cost of £550,000.
40. It is proposed to vire funding from existing Highways and Transport budgets to deliver the works. This includes the use of existing allocations identified in the following list which do not currently have identified spend profiles but could be added into delivery programmes if required at a future date:

Hungate and Peasholme Public Realm - £175k
Highways Road Adoption and Drainage Fund - £125k
Highways Budgets - £250k

41. The Council is expecting additional Government funding for Highways Structural Maintenance over and above that assumed in the budget that will mean funding can be allocated to the Fulford scheme without any reduction in proposed schemes going forward.

Human Resources (HR)

42. There are no HR implications

One Planet Council / Equalities

43. Generally, this scheme will help the council to meet five of the ten principles set out in One Planet York.
44. Sustainable Water & Zero Carbon - buildings are losing heat, suffering water ingress and currently unused, refurbishment will improve the energy efficiency of these buildings, eliminate condition issues, and improve the overall energy efficiency of the building stock on site.
45. Zero Waste – we will reduce waste, reusing where possible and working towards sending zero waste to landfill. To refurbish existing or re-use refurbished classroom units will minimise the environmental impact of materials used.
46. Sustainable Materials – we will strive to procure goods and services that are sustainable and sourced locally. To refurbish existing or re-use refurbished classroom units will minimise the environmental impact of materials used.
47. Land use & Wildlife – we will work to improve the quality of the built environment.

Legal

48. The Local Authority have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient pupil places in the City.
49. Following National Offer day on Monday 1st March, in line with the City of York Council Admissions Policy, the school have an obligation to take a the 270 pupils allocated a place.

Crime and Disorder

50. There are no Crime and Disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

51. There are no Information Technology implications.

Property

52. Fulford School is part of South York Academy Trust. The land that the school is on is leased from City of York Council on a long term basis.

Other

53. Highways implications are outlined in the main body of this report. There are no other known implications.

Risk Management

54. The Council needs to address any potential shortage of school places across its area whilst ensuring it has sufficient funds to increase school places where required. This paper seeks to allocate funding to enable short term measures are in place in the catchment of Fulford School to allow the school to meet the immediate pressures created by in-catchment growth until the long term solution can be implemented. Thus enabling parental preference to be met.
55. There is a risk that this refurbishment proposal may be subject to the outcome of a planning application should the need to replace the existing temporary classrooms with refurbished units be required therefore delaying planned work.
56. The current partial closure of schools created by the national response to the Covid19 crisis has created additional challenges to the procurement and completion of capital projects which is likely to cause delays to the delivery of this project. There is also additional uncertainty as a result of a lack of clarity about the plans for the phased re-opening of schools.

Contact Details

Author:

Author's name

Mark Ellis
Head of School Services
School Services
01904 554246

Co-Author's Name

Ali Kelly
Project Manager
School Services
01904 554655

Tony Clarke
Head of Transport Planning
Transport Planning
01904 551641

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Chief Officer's name

Amanda Hatton
Director of Children, Education &
Communities

Report Date 29/04/2020
Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s) List information for all

Financial:-

Mike Barugh
Principal Accountant
01904 554573

Patrick Looker
Finance Manager
01904 551633

Wards Affected: [List wards or tick box to indicate all] All

Fulford & Heslington Ward

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes:

None

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report:

None