

Executive

28 November 2019

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities

Millthorpe School - Enhanced Resource Provision

Summary

1. This report sets out the amount of funding required to provide a specialist satellite Enhanced Resource Provision facility (ERP) at Millthorpe School for pupils on roll at Applefields School. This provision will be similar to the satellite provision based at Manor CE Academy and allows for the provision of additional places to allow pupils with complex needs to be included in mainstream provision as appropriate to their needs. The development of additional satellite provision in the secondary phase will help to ensure that parental preferences for inclusion in mainstream can continue to be met in accordance with the Children and families Act 2014 and the SEN Code of Practice 2015.

Recommendations

2. The Executive is recommended to:

Approve the allocation of £410,000 from the SEND Facilities Expansion scheme to create a specialist secondary ERP comprising two permanent classrooms at Millthorpe School for use by Applefields School pupils.

Reason: To meet the increasing demand across the city for more additional specialist secondary education provision for pupils with special educational needs.

Background

3. As part of the recent Inclusion Review a number of schemes were identified which were required to meet the increasing demand for specialist education provision across the city. In particular the city has seen a growth in the number of pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs and there has also been a growth in the number of pupils diagnosed with autism. This is reflected by the increase in the number of pupils for whom the Council maintains an Education and Health care plan (EHP). This has risen over the last four years from 570 to 870 and is now closer to the national average.
4. The Inclusion Review recommended the need to provide an additional ERP provision at a satellite site run on similar arrangements to the provision which is currently at Manor CE Academy. The new Secondary ERP will provide an education for those pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 that meet the criteria for special school but where their needs would be better suited to a mainstream school environment.
5. The new 20 place ERP would enhance and add to the specialist secondary provision currently available within the city which includes:
 - Applefields Secondary Special School – 152 pupils.
 - Applefields Satellite at Manor CE Academy – 10 places.
 - Manor CE Academy - Orchard Provision (Asperger's and high anxiety) – 6 places.
 - Joseph Rowntree School ERP (autism) – 10 places
 - Fulford secondary School ERP (autism) – 10 places
6. The ERP at Millthorpe would help to provide some solutions to the current and growing pressures on the secondary SEND cohort identified through the Inclusion Review.

Consultation

7. Consultation has taken place with local SEND Parental representative groups to ascertain their views in relation to future specialist education provision across the city and the need for additional provision at secondary level
8. Following the recommendation of the Inclusion Review to provide an additional secondary ERP, schools were invited to submit an expression of interest. The South Bank Multi Academy Trust indicated an interest to locate the ERP at Millthorpe School.
9. The School's Forum were consulted on the outcomes of the Inclusion Review and at their meeting in July 2019 they agreed to support the proposal for an additional satellite ERP.
10. The satellite ERP has been extensively discussed with both Applefields and Millthorpe schools, including their governing bodies and parents.
11. A small scale pilot satellite provision has been in place since September 2019 using existing space within Millthorpe School. This has involved 4 pupils and is allowing key staff at both Millthorpe and Applefields to work in partnership and to further scope and develop arrangements for a more permanent provision.

Proposed Scheme and Allocated Budget

12. The satellite ERP will consist of:
 - a. 2 x permanent modular classrooms with toilets,
 - b. 2 x stores,
 - c. 1 x cleaning store, plant and circulation area
13. If approved, these classrooms will link to four other classrooms the school are re-providing following a successful condition-led funding bid to the Education Schools Funding Agency. The intention is that this scheme will be incorporated into the existing 4 classroom procurement process, allowing the same contractor to complete all work and ensuring economies of scale.

14. It is anticipated that the modular units will be installed and ready for occupation during the summer term 2020. The maximum number of pupils expected to access this this new facility will be 20 when the building is completed and fully staffed.
15. Those pupils eligible for transport assistance will be assessed as to what is the most appropriate form of assistance this will include a number of different options; independent travel training, walking escort or being transported by a vehicle. Those pupils who will need vehicle transport will be transported to Millthorpe School in a minibus. It anticipated they will share existing transport which arrives at Philadelphia Terrace and where pupils are met and escorted to their classrooms.
16. Millthorpe School will review and update their travel plan and transport method statement as part of the planning application for the new modular builds. This plan and statement will be put together in collaboration with Applefields School and current transport providers.

Sustainability

17. The new modular units at Millthorpe will be placed on existing hard standing areas. There will be no impact on land use, wildlife or on the school playing fields.
18. The new classrooms are expected to be net zero carbon. The design approach is that the build structures consume as little energy as possible whilst generating as much as possible from a clean, renewable source. The buildings are anticipated to achieve an A+ Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating which is the highest in the UK.
19. There are some key outcomes from the introduction of the new build that link directly to One Planet York principles including:
 - a. airtight and super-insulated buildings;
 - b. as much use as possible of clean, renewable sustainable materials;
 - c. installation of Solar PV generation;
 - d. a reduced waste policy;

- e. use of local supply chains, where possible.
20. Millthorpe School are committed to sustainability and have decided to re wild an area of their site near to the existing units to be demolished. The area exposed by the demolished units will also become an outdoor picnic area for pupils.
21. The design organisation who have begun work on the 4 classroom project have indicated that the two new classroom units will:
- have negative carbon emissions ratings and reduced energy costs;
 - generate clean energy and revenue from its integrated solar PV roofs;
 - be fitted with energy efficient heating and cooling systems;
 - have excellent levels of insulation to minimise heat loss;
 - have built-in air pollution protection;
 - include rapid off-site construction and on-site installation;
 - have a 60-year design life;
22. Estimated energy efficiency savings from across the six new classrooms over the next 20 years are estimated to be £265,000.

Human Resources

23. There are no Human Resources implications.

Legal

24. The Local Authority has the legal responsibility to ensure the sufficiency of school places within its area
25. South Bank Multi Academy Trust (SBMAT) hold a lease of the site of Millthorpe School/Academy from CYC (granted on 1st April 2016 for a Term of 125 years from and including that date). Pursuant to that lease, SBMAT need consent from CYC as landlord to erect any buildings/structures on the Millthorpe School site though CYC cannot unreasonably withhold consent.

26. A grant agreement between the South Bank Multi Academy Trust and CYC is currently being drafted. This will outline how the Trust and CYC work together throughout the capital scheme and the mechanisms that will be in place to ensure the funding is spent as agreed. In addition to that grant agreement, it is recommended that a separate formal agreement be entered into between CYC and SBMAT (and the Governing Body of Applefields School) securing the right of Applefields School to have shared use of the proposed facility.
27. CYC will need to be satisfied that the procurement process envisaged in paragraph 12 above, which it is assumed is to be conducted by SBMAT, conforms with public procurement requirements ensuring transparency and equal treatment of potential builders/suppliers, as though CYC were commissioning the work. SBMAT will no doubt also require some assurance by way of any agreement with CYC that it will pay over the sum on satisfactory completion of the project in accordance with the terms of the building contract.

Finance

28. The scheme detailed above at a budgeted cost of £410k will be delivered within the SEND Facilities Expansion scheme, funded by a combination of SEND Special Provision Capital Grant from the Department for Education, and Corporate Prudential Borrowing allocated in a previous Capital Budget process.

Crime and Disorder

29. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology

30. There are no information technology implications.

Property

31. Millthorpe School is part of Southbank Multi Academy Trust. The land that the school is on is leased from City of York Council.

Other

32. There are no other identified implications.

Risk Management

33. 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 add additional specialist secondary school places to meet city wide pressures for some pupils with SEND.

Contact Details

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Background Papers