

Executive

16 March 2017

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Communities (Portfolio of the Executive Member for Education, Children & Young People)

Additional Primary School Places for Micklegate

Summary

1. This paper will provide information on the cost of changes required at Scarcroft Primary School (part of the South Bank Multi Academy Trust) to allow them to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers. The paper also provides feedback following a consultation to consider options available to increase outdoor playing space at the same school in order to attempt to accommodate government requirements for sufficient playing areas.
2. The budget for this project was originally set at £2.5m. As a result of the two consultations which have taken place and the subsequent changes made it is now projected that the funding required will be £1.25m.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to approve the expenditure of an estimated £225k of Basic Need funding to enable Scarcroft Primary School to increase by 0.5 form of entry (15 pupils per year group) to a 2 form of entry (60 pupils per year group). The funding will cover the cost of making internal refurbishment to the school building to add additional classroom space and other required facilities.
4. Members are also recommended to approve £26k of additional expenditure from Basic Need funding to increase the amount of playing area on the school site (removal of car park spaces).

5. Members are also recommended to approve £1m of basic need funding for a full size multi use games area (MUGA) to be located on the Millthorpe Secondary School site with additional parking spaces. The South Bank Multi Academy Trust has agreed to consult with the local community to determine the most appropriate place to locate these additional facilities on the school site. The Academy Trust has also agreed that during the school day the MUGA would be available for use by a number of schools in the area including Scarcroft Primary.

Reason: To enable the council to meet its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places, it supports the proposed changes to Scarcroft Primary school's building and the need to create additional outdoor play space. As from the 1 April 2016 Scarcroft Primary School became part of the South Bank Multi Academy Trust. This means that although the council remains responsible for ensuring there are enough school places in its area it will be the South Bank Multi-Academy Trust Board who have requested approval for the increase in the size of the school through the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Background

6. This paper provides an update to previous papers that were considered by the Executive on the 17 March (Annex A) and 19 May 2016 (Annex B) on this matter. In March, the Executive was asked to consider the expansion of Scarcroft Primary School. At their meeting in May, the Executive agreed in principle, following widespread consultation with the community, that the expansion should take place on the current site of the school in preference to expanding onto a different site.
7. The need to increase the size of the school is required to meet the increasing demand for places from families who reside with the catchment area. From latest pupil projections it is estimated that by increasing the number of pupils to be admitted to Scarcroft Primary School to 60 pupils each year, will enable the majority, but not all pupils in the local school admissions planning zone to access a place at a local school. The admissions planning zone for this area incorporates the catchment areas of both Scarcroft and Knavesmire primary schools.

8. The Executive were informed that by increasing pupil numbers at Scarcroft Primary School would add to the school's current pressures with regards to sufficient play area. The school are already significantly below the Department for Education's requirements. The Executive therefore supported a feasibility study and consultation process to consider appropriate options for increasing the amount of play area. This included considering additional play area provision on the current Scarcroft site and consulting on a suitable site for a full sized MUGA in the Micklegate ward area. In May 2016 the three sites being considered included the Millthorpe School site, Scarcroft Green and Little Knavesmire.

Consultation

9. In July 2016 in partnership with the South Bank Multi Academy Trust, the council began a six week public consultation on the options for creating additional play space for the school's use. Prior to the consultation taking place it was agreed by both parties not to pursue the options of Scarcroft Green or the Little Knavesmire. A public consultation document was produced (see Annex C) and the four options to be considered were:
- (a) Converting part of the school car park into a playground space;
 - (b) Moving an existing fenced-off area on Scarcroft Green, so that it is adjacent to the school site;
 - (c) Creating a MUGA on the site of Millthorpe School;
 - (d) Creating replacement car parking for Scarcroft School staff on the site of Millthorpe School.
10. The table below summarises the results of the online consultation.

Consultation Responses			
	For	Neutral	Against
Option (a)	18	1	0
Option (b)	14	3	17*
Option (c)	8	6	5
Option (d)	0	2	12
Total number of respondents: 34			

*Of the 17 people who were against this proposal, 6 were for keeping the area in the same location, whilst 11 were opposed to any area of the Green being fenced off.

11. A ward meeting also took place during the period of the consultation. The minutes of the meeting are attached in Annex D.
12. Discussions also continued with Scarcroft Primary School throughout 2016 to finalise proposals and costs for the internal alterations required to the building to accommodate the additional pupils and increasing the outdoor playground space on-site.

Analysis

13. Option (a): was favoured by most respondents. The proposed changes will reduce car parking bays from 42 to 20 places whilst increasing the amount of play space by 1,846m².
14. Option (b): will not be pursued by the South Bank Multi-Academy Trust. The future of Scarcroft Green however has the opportunity to be discussed in more detail, if requested, by residents through the Micklegate Neighbourhood Forum/Plan.
15. Option (c): a small majority of respondents to the consultation were in favour of locating a MUGA on the Millthorpe School site. Some residents who live close to the site did raise concerns around two main areas; increased traffic and the possible impact of flood lighting. These matters will need to be addressed further when deciding on the preferred location of the MUGA on the Millthorpe School site and during the formal planning stage. The South Bank Multi Academy Trust will need to be sensitive to these concerns when developing their plans and it is because of this that they will engage in further consultation with the local community when considering options for its location.
16. Twelve of the fourteen respondents to the consultation were not in support of Option (d). The South Bank Multi Academy Trust has already recognised the need to reduce the number of staff using their car to get to and from school. School Travel Plans will continue to be developed and reviewed to put steps in place to reduce car usage amongst its staff. It is not intended to replace all of the 22 car parking spaces which will be lost. With the proposal to build a MUGA on the Millthorpe School site, some re-organisation of the site will be required and is expected to result in a small increase in car parking bays. As with the MUGA the

Academy Trust will consult with the local community before determining the final number and location of any additional car parking.

17. The extra playing space being made available by the recommendations set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 will increase the amount of playing space by 7092m² (as calculated by Department for Education requirements for play space). Although this will still leave Scarcroft Primary School below the Department for Education outdoor play space recommendations, it does bring it much closer to the recommended requirements and in line with most other primary schools across the city.

Council Plan

18. This proposal links to the following key council corporate priorities:
 - (a) a prosperous city for all - the LA wants to ensure that there is a good quality of education available for all around the city
 - (b) a focus on a frontline service - this proposal links directly to the CEC's objective that all children should be able to go to local schools that are good or outstanding
 - (c) a council that listens to its residents - the LA has consulted and listened to the needs of local school and its local residents

Implications

Financial

19. The latest approved capital programme includes a budget of £2.5m for this scheme, approved by the Executive on the 19 May 2016. This figure was based on initial plans and feasibility studies. The updated plans described in this report now indicate that a budget of approximately £1.25m will be needed to complete the full project, including the internal changes to Scarcroft Primary, the increase in outdoor play space and car parking changes.
20. The scheme in the programme is currently funded by Department for Education Basic Need capital grant. The main capital funding available to local authorities for pupil place expansion. At present, allocations have been confirmed up to, and including, 2018/19, totalling £39.49m, of which £15.1m has been spent, or is committed to ongoing schemes.

21. Initial high level planning had allocated a further £19.8m for schemes to alleviate place pressures across the city, including provision for this scheme.
22. As of January 2017, around £900k of Section 106 has been earmarked for the scheme. These relate to outstanding payments from the Terry's and other sites.
23. Based on the revised estimated budget required for this scheme outlined above, an amount of £1.25m can now be released back to the main Basic Need programme, and will be available to support further schemes across the city. In addition, any section 106 receipts allocated to this scheme will further reduce the required commitment from Basic Need.

Equalities

24. An EIA was undertaken in May 2016 is attached (Annex E).

Property

25. As the Scarcroft Primary School is now part of the South Bank Multi Academy Trust, the council has obtained permission from the academy trust to agree to alteration work taking place on the site.
26. One of the buildings on the school site is sub-let to Scarcroft Green Nursery including car parking rights and allocated parking spaces. Agreement would need to be reached (between the academy trust, as landlord, and the nursery) for any final alterations to the car parking rights/re-location of the nursery parking spaces.

Legal

27. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 imposes a duty on the council as local education authority to “contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary, secondary and further education are available to meet the needs of the population in their area.” Section 14 of the Act expands on this duty by requiring the council to secure sufficient schools in “number, character and equipment” to provide all pupils with appropriate education.

28. Members are aware of the duty to have regard to the public sector equality duty. In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- (a) Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - (b) Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - (c) Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
29. In accordance with the new DfE guidance (March 2016) it is the South Bank Multi Academy Trust Board who applied for permission from the Regional Schools Commissioner to increase the size of Scarcroft Primary School which triggered a change to their funding agreement with the Education Funding Agency.

Other Implications

30. There is no specific Human Resources (HR), Crime and Disorder or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

31. The need for school places in this area of the city is already significant and will continue to grow. To not add any places would result in many pupils not being able to access their local school, additional transport costs will be incurred, reputational risk to the council and failing in a key statutory duty not to provide sufficient school places.

Contact Details

Author:

Mark Ellis
Head of School Services
School Services
Children, Education and Communities
01904 554334

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse
Corporate Director of Children,
Education and Communities

**Report
Approved**

Date

07.03.17

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Finance – Mike Barugh, Principal Accountant, 01904 554573
Legal – Andy Docherty, Assistant Director of Governance and ICT, 01904 551004
Equalities – Mary Bailey, Head of Communities and Equalities, 01904 551812
Property – Lynn Hanser, Property Surveyor, 01904 553418

Wards Affected: Micklegate Ward

All

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex A – Additional Primary School Places for Micklegate (17th March 2016)
Annex B – Additional Primary School Places for Micklegate (19th May 2016)
Annex C – Public Consultation Document (July 2016)
Annex D – Minutes of Micklegate Ward Committee Meeting July 2016)
Annex E – Equalities Impact Assessment (May 2016)