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Agenda Item No.6 (f)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

16 January 2020

Report of the Executive Director for Children's Services

**EXPANSION OF GLOSSOPDALE SCHOOL
(YOUNG PEOPLE)**

1. Purpose of Report

To report the outcome of the non-statutory consultation on the expansion of Glossopdale School and seek permission to proceed to the issue of a Statutory Notice.

2. Information and Analysis

In September 2018, the new Glossopdale School was opened to all age groups from 11 – 18. The old school was split across three sites in Glossop and Hadfield however the new building is on a single site in Hadfield. The replacement school was designed to be delivered in two phases. The core facilities (sports hall, hall and dining) have been built to accommodate 1440 pupils however in the initial phase, the teaching accommodation was limited to supporting 1200 pupils. It had been intended to carry out the second phase of building at a later date to provide places generated by the housing development in the town and funded by the Section 106 contributions. Demand for places however has been very high, exacerbated by the large cohort of pupils moving from primary to secondary education at this time which is in line with many other areas of the Country.

Following a review of pupil numbers, current projections and the extent and speed of housing development in Glossop, consideration was given to bringing the second phase of the project forward. A

non-statutory consultation took place between 14 October 2019 and 15 November 2019 to seek the views of interested parties before reporting to Cabinet and a copy of that consultation paper is attached at Appendix A.

There were 58 responses to the consultation. 56 responses supported the expansion, 1 was opposed and 1 was critical of the current position but did not express a view. There was criticism of the decision to deliver the school in two phases however as this consultation is focussed on moving forward to deliver phase 2, whilst those views are noted, they will not be addressed in this report. There were common themes to the comments and therefore they have been grouped together.

Circulation of the Consultation – there was concern that the consultation document had only been available through the Glossopdale School website and the wider community had not been consulted

Authority Comment – The consultation document was posted on the Derbyshire County Council website and circulated to all schools (both secondary and primary) in a 5 mile radius of Glossopdale School, Multi Academy Trusts operating those schools, the Diocese, the MP and County Council, District and Parish Councillors. Whilst the consultation did not go to local residents, they will be consulted as part of the planning process for any expansion.

Catchment Area – There were a large number of comments relating to the fact that the catchment (or normal) area had been changed when the new school was built or that addresses, particularly in the Shirebrook area, were now out of the catchment area.

Authority Comment – The normal area was not changed when the new school opened. The inability of some parents to gain places for their children appears to have resulted in a misunderstanding about the status of some addresses in the town. The suggestion therefore that addresses are now out of catchment area is incorrect. As the school was oversubscribed, under the Admissions Arrangements for the school, the distance from the school was utilised as a criteria for offering places and this resulted in some children that live furthest from the school being unsuccessful with their applications for Glossopdale.

The Impact of Insufficient Places – a large number of those that responded expressed their concern about the impact that insufficient places have on children, families and the town as a whole. There was particular concern about the anxiety caused to families and children, in particular the effect on friendship groups and children’s ability to participate in out of school activities. There was considerable criticism about children being expected to travel the 8 miles to New Mills with poor transport links and the length of the journey particularly in bad weather. It was felt inappropriate for young pupils to be expected to undertake this long journey. There was also concern that a lack of school places could have wider implications on the future of the town if new families were dissuaded from re-locating with impact on housing and businesses.

Authority Comment – DCC acknowledges these issues and has taken them into consideration in moving forward with the proposal that the phase 2 expansion should proceed ahead of the original plan.

The Current School – there were a number of comments about the existing school being too small for the 1200 pupils it was designed for. There was particular concern about the dining facilities and a lack of locker space.

Authority Comment – The Department for Education lays down area guidelines for new schools and it is confirmed that Glossopdale School does conform to those current standards. The school has recently undertaken a timetabling exercise to identify the additional accommodation required in an extension and it has been confirmed that only general teaching spaces would be required to deliver the space for the higher number of students. The current dining space exceeds the space recommended for the full complement of 1440 however it is acknowledged that it has created difficulties for the school and therefore, if agreed, the extension would provide a multi-purpose space suitable for use as supplementary dining space. It is also hoped that the extension will provide an opportunity for more covered space and that will also assist during break times. The Authority is consulting with the school over locker space as the comments are noted.

Housing Growth – there was concern about the extent of the housing growth and the impact on the school. There was also a query about the housing developers contributing to the funding of the expansion.

Authority Comment – DCC is a statutory consultee on all housing developments of 11 or more dwellings and meets with High Peak

Borough Council regularly to monitor the speed of house building. Through the NHS data received annually, it is possible to map the ages of children moving into the new housing and all this information is monitored as part of the planning process. Developer contributions known as Section 106 contributions are sought when it can be proved that there are insufficient school places. The early developments did not attract contributions due to the size of the old school however the more recent ones do, however, a number of the applications are still pending. To date, the Authority has only been able to secure a small amount of funding which is insufficient to fund the expansion.

Birth Data – there was one specific query relating to whether DCC relied on information on birth data based on the place of birth registration rather than the residential address.

Authority Comment – although DCC does receive birth data, the main source is GP registrations. It is felt therefore that the data does give a true reflection of the children in the normal area.

The Use of the Old Site – there were a number of suggestions that the old site should be re-opened and used for additional accommodation.

Authority Comment – the disposal of the two sites in Glossop is an integral part in funding the school that has been built at Hadfield.

The Development of a Sixth Form College – there was a suggestion that a new Sixth Form College should be built for the area and that would release accommodation for the school.

Authority Comment – the separation of the sixth form from the main school has been considered but apart from a desire to retain it in the school, the accommodation would not be sufficient provide the additional 240 places.

Urgency – the large majority of those supporting the expansion wish it to happen as soon as possible.

Authority Comment – DCC has funded the design of the extension at risk whilst the consultation is undertaken and funding is identified. This has been done to avoid any delays if the extension is agreed.

Summary – The consultation demonstrated overwhelming support for proceeding with the expansion. The next stage of the consultation process is to issue a Statutory Notice, a copy of which is attached at Appendix B. The school is currently a maintained

school although the Department for Education has issued an academy order. If the school were to become an academy, it would be the Multi Academy Trust's (MAT's) responsibility to issue the Statutory Notice however at present, there is no confirmation of an agreed conversion date. The consultation on the Statutory Notice would take place over a 4 week period from 24 February 2020 to 20 March 2020. The outcome of that consultation will be reported to Cabinet.

Funding is yet to be identified for the project however it is hoped that that will have been agreed prior to the issue of the Statutory Notice. The expansion project will also be subject to planning permission.

3. Financial Considerations

The cost of the expansion will be confirmed once the design has been agreed however it is expected to be in the region of £4M. Funding will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet.

Legal Consideration

The proposal is subject to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the Department for Education guidance publication - Making significant changes ('prescribed alteration') to maintained schools published in October 2018. Although there is no longer a prescribed 'pre-publication' consultation period for prescribed alterations, there is a strong expectation on schools and the Local Authority to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of a duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations. The non-statutory consultation took place between 14 October 2019 and 15 November 2019 which was a 5 week period to take account of the 1 week half term break.

4. Property Considerations

The Glossopdale School is owned by Derbyshire County Council. The works will be procured and carried out through County Property. If the school converts to an academy prior to the start of the project, the land and buildings will be leased to the MAT however the Authority will carry out the project on the MAT's behalf.

Social Value

The Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient places for the pupils in the County and this expansion will address the needs of the town of Glossopdale.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Prevention of Crime & Disorder, Equality of Opportunity and Environmental, Health, Human Resources and Transport Considerations.

6. Background Papers

These are held on file in the Children's Services Development Section and County Property.

7. Key Decision

No.

8. Call-in. Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in this report?

No.

9. Strategic Director's Recommendations

To consider the outcome of the non-statutory consultation, and to consider and approve the issue of the statutory notice for the expansion of Glossopdale School whilst planning and funding is sought.

Jane Parfremment, Executive Director for Children's Services

Appendix A

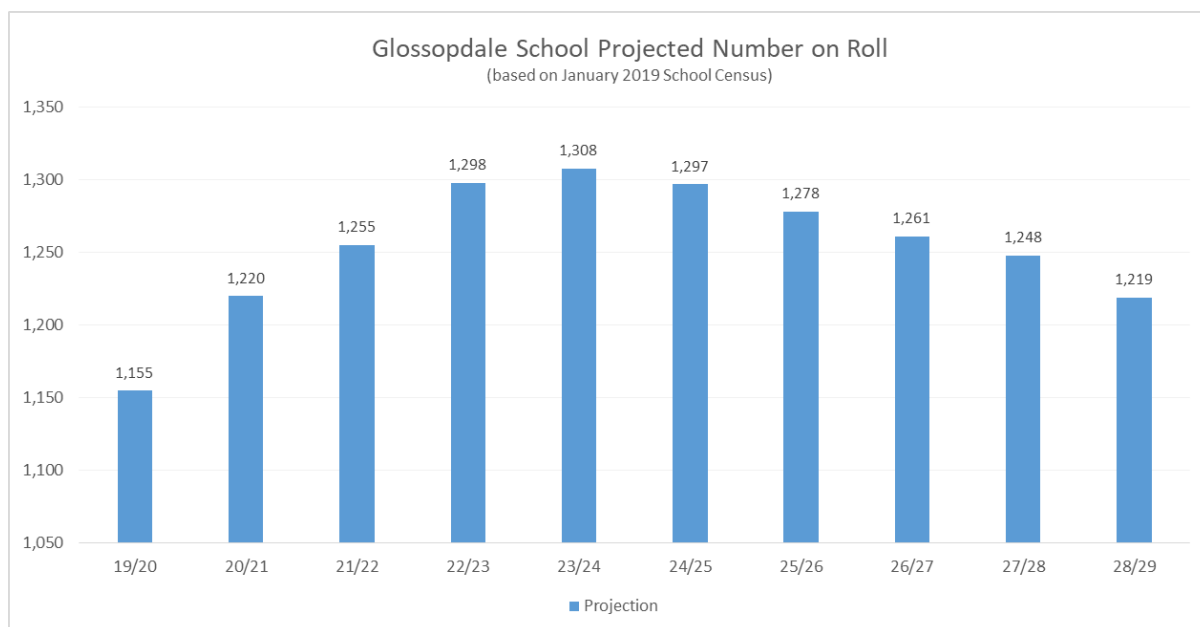
DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON THE EXPANSION OF GLOSSOPDALE SCHOOL

Derbyshire County Council is considering the expansion of Glossopdale School and would welcome the views of interested parties.

In 2018, the new building at Glossopdale School was opened on the Hadfield site. The school was designed to accommodate 1000 pupils in the age range 11–16 and 200 post 16 students. The core facilities (hall, sports hall and dining) however were built to accommodate 1440 pupils comprising 1200 pupils 11-16 and 240 post 16 students to allow for expansion to meet the need created by housing growth in the area. The layout of the school has been designed to allow for an additional wing of teaching accommodation.

In planning the new school, there was a recognition that there was a large cohort of pupils moving from primary to secondary education at present and throughout the UK there is pressure on secondary places. Although the net capacity is specified, there is an element of flexibility taking the capacity up to 1316 as the top of the range and this, together with the larger core facilities, has enabled the school to exceed its planned admission number of 200 over the past 2 years.

The table below shows the projections for the next 5 years



The graph shows a peak in 2023/2024 before a decline in numbers which reflects the reduced birth rates seen across the Country.

The projections however do not take into account the housing planned and under construction in the area. At present there are 660 dwellings with planning approval and a further 242 with pending applications. The High Peak

Borough Council Local Plan identifies further sites with the potential to deliver an additional 273 dwellings over the next 5 years. Not all new houses will necessarily generate additional pupils however in a worst case scenario, the total housing could generate up to 239 secondary pupils over the next 5 years. Historically a percentage of pupils have taken places at schools outside the town however over recent years this number has reduced significantly. Using the current percentage of 85% remaining in Glossop, the likely level of demand created by new housing could be up to 203 pupils by 2024. That number added to the projections would result in a peak beyond the revised net capacity of 1440 however, using the flexibility referred to earlier, it would fall below the top of net capacity range.

On the basis of the information provided, the Authority believes that there is a strong case to expand the school however it is seeking the views of interested parties about the expansion and the provision of an additional 240 pupil places. Any decision to proceed with the expansion plans would be subject to statutory consultation, funding and planning permission for the new wing. The outcome of this consultation will be reported to Cabinet at Derbyshire County Council in January 2020 where a decision will be taken concerning the issue of a statutory notice.

This consultation will take place from 14 October 2019 to 15 November 2019. Any comments should be forwarded to Sue Pegg, Head of Development at sue.pegg@derbyshire.gov.uk or addressed to:
Block C, Chatsworth Hall, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 3FW

Appendix B

Statutory Notice for the Proposal by Derbyshire County Council for the Expansion of Glossopdale School

Notice is given in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alteration to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulation 2013 that Derbyshire County Council, Smedley Street, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG intends to make a prescribed alteration to Glossopdale School located at Newshaw Lane, Hadfield, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 2DA.

It is proposed that the net capacity of Glossopdale School be changed from 1200 to 1440

The current net capacity is 1200 comprising of 1000 pupils in the age range 11 – 16 and 200 post 16 students. Since the new school opened the school has been over-subscribed. Due to that demand for places and the housing growth in the town, the proposal is to increase the net capacity to 1440 comprising of 1200 pupils in the age range 11 – 16 and 240 post 16 students. The school opened in 2018 and the core facilities (sports hall, hall and dining) have already been provided for 1440. The additional accommodation therefore will be general teaching rooms.

S106 developer contributions will be sought to fund additional accommodation generated by the new housing but in the interim, funding from Derbyshire County Council is being sought to allow the expansion to take place as the demand is considered urgent.

The consultation on this proposal will be from 24 February 2020 to 20 March 2020.

The consultation document is available on the Derbyshire County Council website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say or by request from Sue Pegg on Tel: 01629 536040 or by e-mail to sue.pegg@derbyshire.gov.uk Within four weeks of the publication of this notice, any person may object to or comment on the proposal by writing to the address or by sending an e-mail to the contact details below.

Sue Pegg, Head of Development, Block C, Chatsworth Hall, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3FW or sue.pegg@derbyshire.gov.uk

The deadline for receiving responses is Friday 20 March 2020.

Head of Development

Date of Publication

