

Report to: Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools
Report submitted by: Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People
Date: 7 November 2013

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
All in Preston

Proposed Re- Location of Sir Tom Finney Community High School from Moor Park to Ribbleton Hall Drive site, Preston

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Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal to part demolish, extend and refurbish the Ribbleton Hall Drive site, Preston, to facilitate the re-location of Sir Tom Finney Community High School, into suitable accommodation providing specialist facilities.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and Standing Order 25 has been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools is recommended to agree the capital funding proposals for the project from the Children and Young People Capital Strategy allocation 2012/13.

Background and Advice

The Sir Tom Finney Community High School (CHS) was established on 1 September 2008 as part of a reorganisation that discontinued three all age special schools and established two new age phased special schools in the Preston district. The Sir Tom Finney CHS was established as a 90 place secondary special school catering for pupils aged 11 to 19 with generic learning difficulties in the existing premises at Moor Park, Preston. At the time of the reorganisation it was explicit within the statutory proposal notice that the authority's longer term strategy was to co-locate the new school with a mainstream partner school in Preston.

It was agreed on 27 September 2012, following the Statutory Notice on the proposal, to formally expand the Sir Tom Finney CHS to 130 pupils in order to reflect current and anticipated numbers on roll.

In order to significantly improve the accommodation at the school and the educational and vocational offer to pupils, the school is proposed to be relocated to the Ribbleton Hall Drive Campus, formerly used by Ashton Community Science College. The proposed re-location will offer a wide range of educational and vocational opportunities to pupils at the Sir Tom Finney CHS, thus benefiting their transition to adulthood and independence.

The newly remodelled main building will provide facilities for the Sir Tom Finney CHS including general teaching classrooms, design technology, food technology, science, library and ICT, sports hall, fitness suite, life skills, multi-sensory rooms, common rooms, a post 16 common room, dining room, large hall, hydrotherapy pool together with specialist changing facilities for disabled children, staffroom, administrative areas and areas for medical professionals. Externally, improved access will be provided for drop-off and pick up of pupils together with increased parking for cars and minibuses.

It should be noted that the building on the Ribbleton Hall Drive site is currently providing temporary accommodation for some of the displaced pupils from St. Mary's RC Technology College, Leyland, following recent fire damage at that school. It is anticipated that they will vacate the building in December 2013.

The Directorate for Children and Young People will retain the existing Sir Tom Finney Community School site on Blackpool Road for the provision of future school places. To minimise maintenance of the site and avoid revenue expenditure in the interim period, it is proposed that the existing building be demolished.

Timescale

It is anticipated that work could begin on site around January 2014 with completion anticipated for January 2015. Close liaison with the school will be required to ensure a smooth transition to the new location. The demolition of the existing building will form part of the contract and complete once the school has moved to the new site.

This timescale is also dependent on when the building is vacated by St. Mary's RC Technology College and current indications are that this will be prior to Christmas 2013.

Consultations

March 2012: Consultation on the expansion and relocation of the Sir Tom Finney Community High School, Blackpool Road Preston.

November 2013: Publication of a Statutory Notice to revoke the split site arrangements for Ashton Community Science College. Officers have consulted the Governing Body of the school on the proposed single siting of the school and at the Governing Body meeting held on 19 June 2013 it was unanimously agreed in principle that the college relocate the existing facilities currently provided at the Ribbleton campus to the Ashton campus from 1 September 2013.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The County Council's Building Design and Construction Group has undertaken a feasibility study to part demolish, remodel, and refurbish the Ribbleton Hall Drive building to provide facilities for the Sir Tom Finney CHS together with costs to relocate Ashton Community Science College to their main site at Aldwych Drive, the total outturn cost inclusive of all fees and disbursements will be in the region of £5,700,000. In addition to this the cost to demolish the existing Sir Tom Finney school buildings will be in the region of £184,000. The total cost of the proposal can be contained within the existing Children and Young People Capital Strategy Programme 2012/13 allocation.

Property Asset Management

The relocation of the Sir Tom Finney CHS will leave its current site vacant. There is a growing demand for additional primary school places across parts of the County, including the Preston area, and it is proposed to demolish the existing school building but retain the vacant site within CYP ownership to provide additional primary school places in the future. This could be facilitated either by relocating and enlarging an existing primary school or by providing a newly established primary school. This would present an opportunity for co-location with Acorns Primary School, a school designated for children with special educational needs, and the associated benefits of inclusion and integration.

Risk Management

The part demolition, refurbishment and remodelling of the existing building on the Ribbleton Drive Campus provides an opportunity to facilitate the relocation of the Sir Tom Finney CHS which would otherwise not be possible without significant and costly new build. Works will be subject to the relevant planning and section 77 permissions.

Liaison with Corporate Property Group will take place regarding the siting of any future development on the vacant Tom Finney site.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Capital Strategy for Schools 2012/13	6 March 2012	Lynn Mappin, Directorate for Children and Young People, Tel: (01772) 531951

Report to Cabinet Member for Children and Schools: Requesting permission to consult on Sir Tom Finney Community High School	6 March 2012	Steph Rhodes, Directorate for Children and Young People, Tel: (01772) 531957
Report to Cabinet Member for Children and Schools: Requesting confirmation that a Statutory Notice be published on the proposal to increase the number of places at Sir Tom Finney Community High School	14 June 2012	Steph Rhodes, Directorate for Children and Young People, Tel: (01772) 531957
Outcome of Statutory Notice Period on Proposal to Formally Expand Sir Tom Finney Community High School	27 September 2012	Lynn Mappin, Directorate for Children and Young People, Tel: (01772) 531951
Revocation of Duty to implement split site arrangements for Ashton Community Science College: Permission to consult	10 October 2013	Lynn Mappin, Directorate for Children and Young People, Tel: (01772) 531951

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A