

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 August 2019

Report of the Head of Service - Asset Management

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Burnley Central East; Burnley
Central West; Burnley North
East; Burnley Rural; Burnley
South West;

Provision of Additional Secondary School Places in Burnley

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that a primary or secondary school place is available for every child of statutory school age living in Lancashire who requests one.

This report outlines the need for additional secondary school places in Burnley, following the closure of Hameldon Community College in August 2019. Measures have been put in place to provide the places required for September 2019, through schools taking additional pupils on a temporary basis, and this report proposes the permanent expansion of Shuttleworth College and Unity College to provide the required permanent places.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve a permanent expansion of 30 pupil places per year from September 2020 at Shuttleworth College, through the provision of additional permanent accommodation on the existing school site, subject to obtaining relevant planning permission.

- (ii) Approve a permanent expansion of 30 pupil places per year from September 2020 at Unity College, through the provision of additional permanent accommodation on the existing school site, subject to obtaining relevant planning permission.
- (iii) Approve the expenditure listed in Appendix 'A' for the permanent expansion of the two schools.

Background and Advice

On 12 April 2018, Cabinet approved the closure of Hameldon Community College with implementation commencing from 31 August 2018.

At that time, information showed that, if the school were to close, additional spaces in some year groups within existing capacity would be required with immediate effect, to accommodate current pupils. Additional physical capacity will be required through the expansion of other schools. This capacity started to be required from September 2018, when the total number on roll exceeded the net capacity of all other secondary schools in Burnley.

To help ease the situation, Shuttleworth College increased their published admission number for one year only for 2019, by an extra 20 places to 230, and Unity College increased their published admission number for one year only for 2019, by an extra 30 places to 270.

Current situation and forecasts

The table below shows the position in Burnley secondary schools based upon the following published admission number position:

School	Published Admission Number 2019	PAN 2020 onwards*
Shuttleworth College	230 (1 year only providing an extra 20 places for 2019)	210
Unity College	270 (1 year only providing an extra 30 places for 2019 through the transfer of the CLC accommodation to Unity College)	240
Blessed Trinity RC College	250	250
Sir John Thursby Community College	225	225
Burnley High School	120	120
Total	1095	1045

The latest forecast, taking into account spring 2019 pupil census data, shows the following:

Year	Published Admission Number	Projected Intake(raw)	Shortfall	Projected intake with housing and migration	Shortfall
2019*	1095	1119 allocated	15 actual		
2020	1045	1120	75	1113	68
2021	1045	1127	82	1117	72
2022	1045	1097	52	1083	38
2023	1045	1111	66	1094	49

- No housing data is available for Burnley beyond year five (2023).
- 1045 published admission number is based on Unity and Shuttleworth published admission numbers reverting to 240 and 210 respectively.
- The current published admission number for 2019 (1095) includes the additional 20 places provided at Shuttleworth, and only a one form of entry bulge for one year at Unity.

If no action is taken, there will be a shortfall of between 68 to 75 secondary pupil places in 2020. Given increasing secondary place pressure in neighbouring Pendle, there is little chance to displace these pupils into neighbouring planning areas, which increases the need for the places in Burnley. Although schools may have limited capacity to admit pupils above their published admission number, this figure suggests that permanent expansion of one or more schools should be considered.

2019 allocation

The Pupil Access Team has confirmed that all the available school places have been allocated for 2019 Year 7 allocation. The breakdown of these is:

School	PAN	Offers
Shuttleworth College	230	246
Unity College	270	269
Blessed Trinity RC College	250	259
Sir John Thursby Community College	225	226
Burnley High School	120	119
Total	1095	1119

Rationale for expansion

All schools within the area of growth were contacted, in order to seek expressions of interest in expansion, before visits to interested schools then took place.

In an initial assessment of the potential to expand existing schools, the following factors were considered, which are contained within the School Place Provision Strategy (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/children-education-and-families/school-place-provision-strategy/>)

- The current strength of the school in terms of attainment levels and leadership;
- Parental preference;
- The existing size and layout of the school, and its potential for expansion;
- The existing site and the area available to expand the buildings and maintain adequate play and sports space;
- Access to the site and proximity to the area of growth;
- Any potential joint investment benefits which are immediately obvious.

On application of these criteria, it was decided to propose the expansion of Shuttleworth and Unity Colleges for the following reasons:

- Both schools expressed an interest to expand;
- Based on Ofsted ratings as of 18 February 2019, Shuttleworth is graded as 'Requires Improvement' with Unity being graded as 'Good'. Shuttleworth continues to make good progress with increasing popularity. The Department for Education has recently stated, however, that although ideally only 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools would expand, they appreciate that this is not always possible; and
- Both schools would provide the amount of additional places required for the Burnley area.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

If additional secondary school places in Burnley are not created, there is a risk that the Authority would fail in its statutory responsibility to make sure that a maintained school place is available to all Lancashire children of the appropriate age range who want one. Providing additional places increases the overall capacity in the area and, if transfer rates from primary to secondary fail to yield the expected number of pupils for the September 2020 intake, or there is an increased level of outward migration of families from this area, there may be surplus places.

The size of the proposed expansions at both Shuttleworth College and Unity College falls below the requirement to follow the statutory procedures for making a significant enlargement.

Shuttleworth College is currently subject to a directive academy order. However, the school has received two subsequent 'requires improvement' judgements from Ofsted and continues to make good progress.

Property Asset Management

The expansion of Shuttleworth College and Unity College can be provided on the existing school sites. An initial assessment has been carried out to establish the additional accommodation that would be required for each expansion. This has been based on published area guidance, a net capacity report, the current layout, and discussions with the school regarding their current accommodation. However, at this stage, no design work has been commissioned so these proposals are outline only.

Places are required for September 2020, which leaves only thirteen months for design and construction of the Shuttleworth scheme. This is an extremely challenging programme. However, as it involves mainly standard classroom accommodation, modular construction is proposed, which can be delivered in a shorter timescale. Nevertheless, a decision is required at this time to allow the accommodation to be available for September 2020.

The Unity College extension proposal is larger and more complex as it involves specialist classrooms and an extension of the existing building, so building works will not be complete until September 2021. However, there is sufficient accommodation within the existing building and former City Learning Centre for the first year's intake in September 2020, with the addition of a temporary double classroom.

Financial Implications

This project will be funded from the basic need allocation. The financial implications are set out at Appendix 'A' and are deemed to be Part II for the reason set out below:

This section of the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The costs at this stage are indicative, based on the additional accommodation required and in the absence of detailed design work. Existing surveys will be available from the PFI partner and there are known ground condition issues at Unity College.

Procurement

All Lancashire County Council procurement standing orders will be complied with. The procurement of the works will be through Lancashire County Council's PFI partner as both schools proposed for expansion fall within current PFI contracts.

Personnel

There are not direct personnel implications. However the two schools concerned will need to appoint additional staff once the expansions are completed.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Appendix 'A' is not for publication - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.