

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 January 2020

### 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 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. In August 2019, Cabinet agreed to provide additional places at both Unity College and Shuttleworth College to address this need, through an increase of 30 places to their Published Admission Number, providing a total of 150 additional permanent places at each school.

This report outlines a change to this proposal, due to issues that have arisen with the provision of these places at the Shuttleworth site within the agreed timescale. The provision of all the required permanent places will now be at Unity College.

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 increase of 30 pupil places in Year 7 starting from September 2021 at Unity College, Burnley, in addition to the permanent expansion of 30 pupil places in Year 7 from September 2020 agreed by Cabinet in August 2019.

- (ii) Rescind the decision made by Cabinet in August 2019, to provide permanent accommodation on the Shuttleworth College site, Burnley from September 2020.
- (iii) Approve a temporary increase of 30 pupil places at Shuttleworth College, Burnley for September 2020 only.
- (iv) Approve the expenditure listed at Appendix 'A' for the permanent expansion of Unity College, Burnley.

## **Background and Advice**

In order to provide sufficient secondary school places within the Burnley area, in August 2019, Cabinet approved the permanent expansion of both Unity College and Shuttleworth College by raising their admission numbers by 30 pupil places each per year from September 2020, to 270 at Unity and 240 at Shuttleworth. Both schools also admitted bulge years in 2019, with 30 additional pupils admitted at Unity and 28 at Shuttleworth; these have been achieved within the existing accommodation at Shuttleworth, and through the extension of Unity College into the former City Learning Centre accommodation.

Plans have been developed for both sites in close consultation with the senior leadership teams of each school, to provide the additional accommodation required to deliver the curriculum to the increased number of pupils.

## **Shuttleworth College site issues**

At Shuttleworth College a modular block has been proposed; however siting this building has been more difficult than was originally envisaged. The site is located in the green belt zone, restricting the potential areas that can be developed. Five potential locations have been investigated; three of these are affected by the possible presence of protected species which would delay the programme beyond the required delivery date, and the other two have been found to be affected by historic mine workings.

The preferred location was subject to an intrusive site investigation in early November. Unfortunately, this has revealed the need for extensive ground stabilisation works which would delay the programme, meaning that the new block could not now be completed for September 2020 as intended, as well as adding considerably to the cost of the works.

One of the alternative locations, previously discounted due to the delay entailed by the need for ecology surveys, could potentially be developed as an alternative, but would also not be deliverable for September 2020. Temporary accommodation would be required to cater for the additional pupils expected in September 2020, and to allow for internal alterations to provide sufficient specialist spaces for the future expansion in pupil numbers. As this course of action would cause both significant additional disruption to the school and increased costs for the project overall, an alternative proposal has been developed and is now recommended for approval.

## Unity College proposal

The August 2019 Cabinet report suggested a new build within the Unity College site. However, an opportunity has since been identified to utilise the adjoining Lancashire County Council owned Easden Clough site. This site adjoins the Unity College grounds and could be easily linked to it and accessed on foot. This option is preferred as construction would be procured outside the Private Finance Initiative contract and disruption to the school during building works would be minimised.

The children's social care service currently delivers its Children and Parenting Support Service from Easden Clough. This includes supervised work with families and case conferences, in addition to providing office and ancillary accommodation for social care and support staff. Requirements for implementation of the family safeguarding model are emerging and may necessitate a reorganisation of their premises. With this in mind, alternative delivery locations have been identified and are being progressed urgently, including the possibility of temporary leased accommodation, whilst the family safeguarding model requirements are finalised.

Once vacated, Easden Clough would be demolished and a new purpose built block of school accommodation would be built on the site. This was originally envisaged to accommodate the additional 150 pupils agreed by Cabinet in August 2019, however in light of the issues that have developed at the Shuttleworth site, schemes for both 150 and 300 additional pupils have now been developed.

Due to the risks and issues outlined regarding the scheme at Shuttleworth College, it is proposed that, rather than provide 30 permanent additional places per year at Shuttleworth College as previously agreed, the school takes a temporary increase of 30 places for one year only, and the 30 permanent additional Year 7 places are provided at Unity College from September 2021.

### Current position following Cabinet approval in August 2019

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Shuttleworth</b>	Published Admission Number increase from 210 to 240 - 30 extra per year. Permanent change.	None
<b>Unity</b>	Published Admission Number increase from 240 to 270 - 30 extra per year. Permanent change.	None

**Proposed recommendation:**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Shuttleworth</b>	The Published Admission Number has been published at 240, therefore 30 extra places for 1 bulge year.	The school is currently consulting on a reduction of their Published Admission Number to 200 for the September 2021 intake.
<b>Unity</b>	The Published Admission Number has remained at 240. School have agreed to over admit to 270. Thirty extra places.	The Published Admission Number will remain at 240. The school have agreed to exceed their Published Admission Number and admit 300 pupils. In future years the Published Admission Number will be amended to reflect a permanent increase of 60 pupils.

**2020 allocation: Shuttleworth College Published Admission Number**

The Published Admission Number for Shuttleworth College for 2020 has already been published at 240 places, an increase of 30 pupils based on the previous Published Admission Number of 210. As published admission arrangements have to be adhered to, Shuttleworth will have to admit these additional pupils in September 2020. However, in light of the issues outlined above it is now proposed that this increase is temporary rather than permanent, and that steps will be taken in respect of reducing the Published Admission Number at Shuttleworth College to 200 from 2021.

The head teacher at Shuttleworth College has confirmed that she will be able to accommodate the temporary increase in numbers for 2020 within the existing school building, thus negating the need for temporary accommodation.

**Consultations**

The head teachers of both schools have been consulted and are in agreement with this proposal. The wider Burnley secondary head teachers have also been consulted and support this proposal. No formal consultations have taken place with Easden Clough staff regarding potential moves, but the head of service has been consulted.

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

## **Risk management**

There is a risk that the proposed expansion at Shuttleworth College could not have been delivered for September 2020, with the risk that there may have been insufficient secondary school places in Burnley. The current proposal is intended to mitigate that risk. If there are not sufficient secondary school places, 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 within the appropriate age range. Providing additional places at Unity College mitigates this risk and increases the overall capacity in the area.

If transfer rates from primary to secondary fail to yield the expected number of pupils for the 2020 intake, or there is an increased level of outward migration of families from this area, there may be surplus places created.

Shuttleworth College is currently subject to a directive academy order. The school has received two subsequent 'requires improvement' judgements from Ofsted and continues to make good progress. Minimising disruption to the school will be beneficial.

## **Property Asset Management**

The August 2019 Cabinet report proposing the expansion of Shuttleworth College and Unity College noted that no design work had been commissioned at that stage so the proposals were outline only. It also noted the extremely challenging programme for the Shuttleworth College scheme. As work on the two schemes has progressed, the challenges of the Shuttleworth site have become more apparent and delivery of the accommodation for September 2020 is now at risk, as well as costs having risen.

There are benefits to the revised proposal, including:

- A single permanent project would be procured instead of two;
- The building would not be on the school site but one owned by Lancashire County Council so only minimal negotiations with the PFI provider would be required;
- Once pupil numbers fall again both schools can contract in size and not be burdened with maintaining buildings in excess of their requirements;
- The new accommodation will be available for other purposes in the future e.g. an office base;
- Costs will be reduced by following this course of action.

## **Financial Implications**

This project will be funded from the basic need allocation and borrowing as approved in August 2019. This proposal would reduce the cost of the project from that previously agreed, as well as mitigating the delivery risks. There will be some costs for abortive work entailed in not progressing the Shuttleworth Scheme.

There will be costs associated with relocating staff and services currently delivered from the Easden Clough building. An allowance has been made for this based on current proposals.

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 estimates based on designs that have been developed with the schools and the agreed additional accommodation required. Surveys of the new site have been progressed through December which will further inform the design.

### **Procurement**

All Lancashire County Council procurement rules and statutory requirements will be complied with.

### **Personnel**

There are no direct personnel implications. However, the schools will need to appoint staff accordingly once a decision is made.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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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.