

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 6 April 2023

Report of the Director of Strategy and Performance

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

School Place Planning Delivery Programme 2023-25: Update

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Mel Ormesher, Tel: (01772) 536966, Head of Asset Management,

mel.ormesher@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report provides an update on the School Place Planning Delivery Programme for 2023-25 and seeks approval of projects identified to address the projected shortfall of primary and secondary school places. Financial implications are set out at Appendix A which is to be considered under Part 2.

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

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the capital allocation for the Broughton In Amounderness Church of England Primary School project set out at Appendix 'A', to provide an additional external play area and some minor internal remodelling to the existing school building.
- (ii) Approve the capital allocation for the Cottam Primary School project set out at Appendix 'A', to provide alterations to the external play area and canopy and internal remodelling to the existing school building.
- (iii) Approve the capital allocation for the demolition of the former Tulketh High School project set out at Appendix 'A'.

- (iv) Approve an additional capital allocation for the expansion of Colne Primet Academy, Pendle project set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (v) Approve an additional capital allocation for the expansion of St Augustine's Roman Catholic High School, Billington project set out at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

In October 2022, Cabinet approved the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25, which sets out a series of projects to provide additional primary and secondary school places where projected shortfalls have been identified. The programme proposed that the additional places should be provided through the expansion of existing schools and the establishment of new schools.

This report provides an update on the progress of the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25, and requests approval of enlargement proposals and of the related capital schemes.

Full details of the capital scheme projections are provided at Appendix 'A'. These are deemed to be Part II and exempt from publication as they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Provided below is an update for the relevant areas identified within the School Place Planning Programme 2023-25.

Goosnargh & Grimsargh (Preston) and Longridge (Ribble Valley) Primary School planning areas

Broughton In Amounderness Church of England Primary School

A capital allocation is required for works to enable 25 temporary places for September 2023. The work will consist of providing an additional external play area and some minor internal remodelling to the existing school building.

Cottam Primary School

A capital allocation is required for early works to enable 30 temporary places for September 2023, in advance of the outcome of the consultation to permanently expand the school to 2 forms of entry from 2024. The work will consist of alterations to the external play area and canopy and internal remodelling to the existing school building.

Preston Secondary School planning area

A capital allocation is required to enable the demolition of the former Tulketh High School buildings, and to move and make safe utility services to the site, including a gas main which also serves the adjoining former caretakers house. The county council has previously consulted on a proposal to establish a new secondary school



utilising the Tulketh site. Some responses to the consultation indicated that the site was not popular with parents; a further consultation process is therefore to be conducted. The county council has committed to continue with preparations at the site, pending the outcome of the further consultation. Demolition of the buildings and associated works will enable the development of a new school on site to continue, although should a decision be made to no longer use the site for a new school, the expenditure for the proposed works would not be wasted as they would contribute positively towards the disposal of the site. The outcome of the further consultation process will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

Pendle Secondary planning area, Colne Primet Academy

In September 2021, Cabinet approved a project to provide 241 additional places. The project consists of a new block of accommodation containing 15 classrooms and increased dining facilities, internal remodelling, and Special Educational Needs provision, however, due to inflationary costs, an additional allocation to the capital project is requested.

Ribble Valley Secondary planning area St. Augustine's Roman Catholic High School Billington

In April 2022, Cabinet approved a project to provide 141 additional places. The project consists of a new block of accommodation containing six classrooms, departmental office, stores and toilets and Special Educational Needs classrooms with a life skills space, however, due to inflationary costs, an additional allocation to the capital project is requested.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This is a substantial programme of work to be delivered on time where demand for places has increased rapidly.

Future levels of Basic Need grants from the Department for Education are as yet unconfirmed. Developer contributions, where applicable, may rise with the increased housing in the areas, which is partly driving the need for new school places. Cost estimates are immature and still require detailed design and procurement routes, and agreed maximum prices are still to be agreed with suppliers. The allocations are set out at Appendix 'A'.

Future reports will update on consultations, detailed delivery plans and funding sources for further schemes necessary to meet demand.

Capital projects are subject to planning approval.



There is a risk that by commissioning works to prepare the Tulketh site, there may be a public perception that the county council has made a decision to use the site for a new school. Works to prepare the site should not be considered to predetermine the outcome of any further consultation.

Financial - Capital Funding

These allocations are to be funded by the Schools Basic Need capital grant. There is no borrowing involved in the provision of these additional places.

Procurement

All contractors carrying out the works will be selected in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, either through the use of an established framework or via a new tender exercise.

Equality and Cohesion

The proposals will mainly impact the age (children and younger people) protected characteristic and, in relation to those proposals which include provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, the disability protected characteristic. Should the proposals be approved it is anticipated that they will have a positive impact, particularly in relation to the general aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Appendix 'A' - Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. Appendix 'A' 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.

