

Agenda Item No: 7 (g)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

1 November 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

ALFRETON GRANGE ACADEMY CONVERSION – CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of Report

To note the final position regarding allocations for furniture, equipment and ICT for a rebuilding project at Alfreton Grange (now known as the David Neiper Academy).

2. Information and Analysis

On 22 October 2013, Cabinet agreed that £1.35m of funds that had been allocated to various improvement projects at Alfreton Grange would be reallocated to cover items of provision that were not included within the Priority School Building Programme project to rebuild the school, funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The principle items were furniture, equipment and ICT.

In August 2016, the amount of funding required to provide the necessary furniture, equipment and ICT was agreed with the school. This totalled £993,544. The school was due to adopt Academy Status from 1 September 2016 and it was in the interest of the Authority and the School that this conversion should not be delayed. Approval was therefore sought and given by the Chief Executive to use his powers under the constitution to confirm the final allocation figure and this was given in August 2016.

Prior to conversion, Alfreton Grange was operating under an Interim Executive Board appointed by the Secretary of State for Education. This resulted in the Authority having limited influence or control over the school. The significance of this is that, on conversion, any deficit in the school's accounts must be funded by the Authority (positive balances on conversion transfer to the converting academy). It was, therefore, in the Authority's interest to conclude an early conversion in order to reduce the risk of an increased deficit. It was agreed that the amount available to the

school, £993,544 for furniture, equipment and ICT, would be reduced by the equivalent amount to the deficit that was to fall to the Authority to fund. Following conversion, the Authority has a 4-month period to close the accounts of the closing school and determine the extent of any deficit.

The Authority has retained control of one building on the site for its own use. It is expected that this building will be used to accommodate the Behaviour Support Service and the Sensory and Physical Support Services that are currently located in Breadsall. (Details of this proposal will be the subject of another report to a later meeting of Cabinet).

3. Financial Considerations

As set out in the report

4. Social Value Considerations

These funds will ensure that the redevelopment of the school is complete which should have a positive impact on the school and its community.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered:- prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal & human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.

6. Key Decision No

7. Call In

Is it necessary for the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed in the report? No

8. Background Papers

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

9. Officer Recommendation

That Cabinet notes the final allocation of £993,544 for Furniture, Equipment and ICT (subject to adjustment to reflect any deficit at the school).

Jane Parfrement
Strategic Director for Children's Services