

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****10 February 2015****Report of the Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults****REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO REORGANISE GLOSSOPDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON TO A SINGLE SITE - (Children and Young People)****1. Purpose of Report**

To advise Cabinet of the responses to the Authority's statutory consultation on a proposal to reorganise Glossopdale Community College onto a single site.

2. Information and Analysis

On 21 October 2014, Cabinet gave approval for a statutory consultation to be undertaken on the proposal to move Glossopdale Community College on to a single site by building a new school on the existing Hadfield site, then. The consultation was held from Monday 3 November 2014 to Friday 12 December 2014. Statutory notices were published in the local press, on the College website and displayed outside the College's three sites. A consultation paper was published on both the Derbyshire County Council and College web sites, whilst paper copies of a consultation leaflet were circulated to parents, students, staff and governors of the College. Leaflets were also sent to: local libraries, all feeder primary schools – these are all in Derbyshire - within the normal area, surrounding secondary schools in the Authority, and residents adjacent to the College's three sites. During the six week period of consultation a total of 95 responses were received. Of these responses 69 were fully in favour of the proposal, a further 16 supported the proposal but raised various concerns whilst 5 were totally opposed. An additional 5 responses made comments without either supporting or opposing the proposal. The three local members for the area served by the school – Etherow, Glossop and Charlesworth - have expressed support for the proposal. The concerns and comments expressed in the responses have been collated into broad themes identified in the report below.

Choice of Hadfield Site

A small number of responses queried the choice of the Hadfield site for the new school as opposed to the Talbot Road site. Concern was expressed by two respondents that if the proposal went ahead there would no longer be a secondary school in the town of Glossop.

Authority's Comment

The Hadfield site was chosen for a number of reasons: It is the largest site, being twice the size of the Talbot Road site and also relatively flat. There are existing playing fields of a sufficient size and a recently constructed 3G All Weather Pitch. Using the Hadfield site will allow a new school to be built with minimum impact on the staff, students and local residents, whereas the Talbot Road site is on a steep gradient, closely surrounded by residential development and has very limited, poor quality on-site playing fields. The Hadfield site, in addition is large enough to allow for future expansion of the school, should there be an increase in student numbers. The County Council is mindful of the fact that should the proposal go ahead, there will not be a maintained secondary school within the actual town of Glossop, however the Authority's view is that the significant advantages of consolidating the College into new buildings onto a larger, more suitable site in Hadfield which all students already attend for part of their time, outweigh this fact.

Traffic and Access Issues on the Hadfield Site

A significant number of respondents expressed concern about the impact of increased traffic that would result from moving the College to a single site at Hadfield. The provision of adequate parking/pick up/ turning facilities, along with consideration of student safety as pedestrians when accessing the new school was queried. The issue of transport for students was also raised.

Authority's Comment

During the design process discussions will be held with both Derbyshire County Council Highways and Planners as regard to the traffic impact on the area and any necessary mitigating measures that may be necessary. Sufficient car parking will be provided on the site for all staff and visitors, along with a dedicated bus drop off/ pick up bay. There will be segregated access points to the site for both vehicles and pedestrians. As part of the formal planning submission a Traffic Plan will be prepared which analyses how all the staff and students will reach the site from their homes and what measures need to be adopted in order to make these journeys as safe as possible and minimise the use of private cars. The entitlement of students to assistance with travel will be reassessed when the College moves to a single site. Each case will be considered individually, but usually students who have to travel over three miles to their normal area secondary school are eligible for free transport. Ten years ago there were in the region of 1,000 students based on the Hadfield site, so the impact of this proposal is less than it would first appear. In addition,

a school located on split sites produces additional vehicle movements with staff, both teaching and non-teaching, travelling between sites during and at the start/end of the day.

Location of new building on the Hadfield Site

Concern was expressed in some responses about the actual location of the new school on the Hadfield site, particularly as to whether it would be on the footprint of the existing buildings and the impact it may have on local residents.

Authority's Comment

This project is in the early stages of development. A contractor has yet to be appointed to design and build the new school, thus no decision has been made about the design or exact location of the new building. It is, however, unlikely to be on the footprint of the existing building, as this would necessitate additional disruption to the existing students, moving them twice; once to allow demolition and then back into the new building. Such a proposal is also likely to increase the predicted overall cost, as temporary accommodation would be required. If the new building is constructed on any part of the playing fields then these will be replaced when the existing buildings are demolished. It is the Authority's normal practice on major schemes such as this to consult with local residents during the design process in order to understand their concerns and before the submission of formal planning permission.

Size of the new school

Some responses commented on the size of the new building; concern was expressed as to whether it would be of sufficient size to accommodate all students who wished to attend.

Authority's Comment

The new building will be designed to cater for 1,200 students (1,000, 11-16 aged students with 200 post-16 places) The Authority's analysis of existing student numbers and projection data has shown that a total capacity of 1,200 is currently more than sufficient to meet the forecasted demand from within the normal area. However the building will be constructed so that it can be extended in order to increase the capacity if required.

Youth Club/Community Centre

A small number of respondents were concerned about the possible need to demolish the existing Youth Centre/Community Centre and felt that provision needs to be made in the new build to replace these facilities.

Authority's Comment

It is acknowledged that it may be necessary to demolish the existing Youth and Community Centre in order to open up access to the site and facilitate the construction on a new building. If this is the case additional floor area will be included in the new build to compensate. Discussions will be held during the design process with Youth and Community Services to determine exactly what this additional area should consist of.

SEN provision

Provision for SEN students

One respondent queried the provision for students with special educational needs.

Authority's Comment

The new building will contain specialist areas for working with students in groups or individually who have special educational needs (SEN). The detailed design of these rooms will be developed in consultation with the school. In addition, the College currently has an Enhanced Resource (ER) facility for a small number of students with SEN, this will be replicated in the new building.

Sale of the Talbot Road Site

Some respondents commented on the proposed sale of the Talbot Road site for housing. There was concern that any new development should include affordable properties. In addition 2 respondents felt that the playing fields on this site should not be developed, instead being retained for community use.

Authority's Comment

It is proposed that following the opening of the new building on the Hadfield site, both the Talbot Road and Talbot House sites will be sold for housing development. The potential receipts from these sales will provide a significant contribution towards the cost of building the new school. The exact type and quantity of housing on the sites would be a matter for the developer to agree with High Peak Borough Council. However in

accordance with the District Council's local plan, any development on the Talbot House Site would need to include some affordable housing. Glossopdale Community College, in addition to the three sites, has two detached playing fields on Fauvel Road and Cemetery Road in Glossop. It is intended that these will be retained for community use. The Fauvel Road playing fields are adjacent to the Talbot Road site. The Authority is applying to the Secretary of State for consent to dispose of the small area of playing fields on the existing main College site on Talbot Road so the entire site can be sold. These playing fields are on a steeply sloping site, are difficult to access and of poor quality. Planning guidance would indicate that a developer would need to provide a small recreational area for children's games on the Talbot Road site if the entire College site was sold for residential development.

Disruption during construction

Concerned was expressed in a few responses about possible disruption to local residents and the adjacent Care Home whilst the new College was built, also the impact of construction traffic on local roads around the Hadfield site. Comment, in addition, was made about the need to ensure that there was minimum disruption to the College students.

Authority's Comment

The Authority has extensive experience of managing the construction of new secondary schools on existing sites, having undertaken 10 such schemes in the last few years and will thus ensure that this project is managed in order to minimise the impact on all parties. As part of the design process any potential impact will be carefully considered, whilst the principal contractor will be required to submit a detailed construction plan and programme as part of the planning submission. One of the reasons for choosing the Hadfield Site is that of all the options considered this one causes the least potential disruption to staff and students. The College will be able to continue operating on all 3 sites until the new build is complete. As the Hadfield Site is large and only Year 7 and 8 students are based there it will be possible to construct a new school on a separate area of the site with minimum disruption, which would not be the case on the main College site on Talbot Road.

Separate 6th form and split sites

One respondent believed that post-16 facilities should be detached from the 11-16 provision, whilst three other responses were in favour of retaining split sites and investing in their refurbishment

Authority's Comment

At this early stage in the project it is not possible to comment on the design or location of the 11-16 facility within the building. It is likely, however, there will be some separate social, teaching and private study areas purely for post-16 students. The design will be developed in line with national guidelines from the Department for Education (DfE). The Business Case which investigated a number of options in detail regarding the future development of the College concluded that due to the additional revenue costs of operating on three sites, the considerable amount of surplus accommodation and the high maintenance backlog on the existing buildings, the most cost effective option would be to relocate the College into new buildings on the Hadfield Site. The Principal, Staff and Governors fully support the proposal of moving to a single site, advocating that it will have a significant positive impact on the standards of educational achievement within the College.

Support for the proposal.

The overwhelming majority of the respondents were in support of the Authority's proposal. Many commented on the benefits a new suitably sized, modern, efficient and designed for purpose building on a single site would bring to both the College and the local community. The reasons for choosing the Hadfield Site and disposing of the Talbot Road sites were understood by a significant number of respondents who supported the proposal.

Next Steps

Officers from CAYA Development will proceed with the submission to the DfE for the disposal of the playing fields on the Talbot Road site. In addition they will consult with the College Principal, Senior Staff, and Governors in order to draw up a detailed brief for the new building. Officers will then liaise with Corporate Property in competitively procuring the project through a design and build contract. A further report will be brought to Cabinet when the budget and method of procurement is finalised.

3. Financial Considerations

This is a large and complex project. It is proposed that the details of the scheme be further developed in conjunction with Corporate Property and that Cabinet considers the scheme again when more details are available. The cost of the phase 1 project, including additions for youth service and Special needs resource space is approximately £22.5m.

4. Legal Considerations

Local authorities have a duty to ensure sufficient supply of school places in their areas. The proposals set out in this report follows a statutory process set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the accompanying statutory Department for Education guidance 'School Organisation Maintained Schools – Guidance for proposers and decision makers' (January 2014). A statutory consultation is required under the regulations and guidance.

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 require that the Secretary of State's consent is obtained in order to dispose of, or change the use of a school playfield field.

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, human rights, human resources, property, economic regeneration and transport considerations.

6. Background Papers

A file is held in CAYA Development Team office which includes copies of all responses received during the consultation

7. Key Decision Yes

8. Call-in

Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No.

9. Acting Strategic Director's Recommendation: That approval be given to

- 9.1 agree to the proposal to move Glossopdale Community College to a single site in Hadfield with the disposal of the Talbot Road and Talbot House sites following consultation.
- 9.2 the use of the capital receipts from the disposal of the Talbot Road and Talbot House sites towards the cost of a new school building on the Hadfield site
- 9.3 proceed with the scheme to build a new school on the Hadfield site which is likely to open on 1 September 2017.

- 9.2 consider a further report to confirm the budget for the scheme and more detail on the cost when the method of procurement for the new school building is known.

Ian Johnson, Acting Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults