

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****21 October 2014****Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults****Glossopdale Community College – Single Site Reorganisation – (Children and Young People)****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to undertake a statutory consultation on a proposal to reorganise Glossopdale Community College onto a single site, and to apply to the Department for Education (DfE) for consent to dispose of the playing fields on one of the College sites.

**2. Information and Analysis**

**2.1.** Glossopdale Community College currently occupies 3 separate sites, 2 of which are approximately 2 miles apart. The vast majority of the accommodation on the 3 sites is in relatively poor condition with a total maintenance backlog of £5.4 million. Many of the facilities were designed around 60 years ago and are less than ideal for providing education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Over the last ten years there has been a significant reduction in the numbers of students attending the College. These have fallen from 1,928 in 2004 to 1,203 in 2014 resulting in the College having 46% spare capacity. Student numbers are forecast to continue falling to 1,051 by 2018. Operating on 3 sites is a high revenue cost to the College due to duplication of certain staff and resources

**2.2.** Following a visit to the school early in 2014, by the Deputy Cabinet member for Children and Younger People, a Business Case was requested looking at a strategic plan for the College which produced in May 2014. It explored four options of rationalising the College onto a single or two adjacent sites with either new build or a mix of refurbishment and new build. The options were based on a 1,200-place 11-16 school with facilities for 240 post-16 students, as this was viewed as the possible long term need for the area. Cost of the options ranged from £19m for a mixture of new build and extensive refurbishment to £22.5m for a full new build. The first option when compared with new build would involve a much longer

period of works and prolonged disruption for the College. The Business Case also showed the Hadfield Site to be the preferred site for new build, being of sufficient size to accommodate a school of 1,440 students with room for future expansion. There are extensive playing fields on the site along with a recently constructed 3G floodlit All-Weather Pitch. In addition a new building could be constructed on this site with minimum disruption to the College.

- 2.3.** As part of the Business Case, the Strategic Director of Property was asked to undertake a valuation of the College's three sites. This showed that if a new building was constructed on the Hadfield site – thus allowing the Talbot Road and Talbot House sites to be disposed of – estimated capital receipts of £9m could be realised. Cabinet has previously approved £5.5m from the CAYA Capital Programme towards the strategic development of the school, thus there is a potential funding shortfall of £8m on the new build option at Hadfield.
- 2.4.** The Business Case only looked at replacing the main school, it excluded any Enhanced Resource School ERS provision (to accommodate pupils with Special Educational Needs). There is also a youth centre at the entrance to the Hadfield site which would need to be demolished in order to construct the new school. These two facilities if required would add an additional 235m<sup>2</sup> to the new building.
- 2.5.** Since the Business Case was produced due to inflation in the construction industry concern has arisen over the original £22.5m cost for the new build option on the Hadfield site with £24m now suggested as being more realistic. The scheme has therefore been reviewed to reduce costs. A reduction in cost of approximately 10% can be achieved by phasing the project so that the initial scheme provides the accommodation needed over the next few years. If the first phase has a capacity of 1,200 students (1,000 11-16 plus 200 post-16) this would be greater than the forecast roll of 1,076 in 2019 and reduce the buildings area by approximately 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.6.** Further design work is required to refine the budget of the phase 1 scheme. This will be reported to Cabinet in a future report.
- 2.7.** The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, require that where a Local Authority seeks to close a school site (where the school occupies more than one site) they must follow a statutory process. Approval is therefore sought to undertake a public consultation on the proposed move of the College to a single site. Attached with this paper (Appendix 1) is a draft consultation paper which will be

published in the local press and circulated to all students, staff, Governors and Parents of the College. Furthermore, the consultation will be published on the College's website and a notice about the proposals will be posted in conspicuous places around the college. In addition copies will be issued to feeder primary schools of the College, surrounding secondary schools in the Authority and residents adjacent to the three sites. It is proposed to issue the paper on Monday 3 November 2014 with a deadline for responses of Friday 12 December 2014. This allows six term weeks for consultation. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in February 2015.

- 2.8.** The School Standards and Framework (SSFA) Act 1998 Section 77 requires the prior consent of the Secretary of State to the disposal or change of use of school playing fields. In order to achieve the maximum capital receipt for the College's main site on Talbot Road, consent needs to be obtained for the small area of playing fields on this site to be disposed of and used for residential development. Approval is therefore sought to apply to the Secretary of State for consent. A development of this size would add overtime to the number of children in the College, but there is sufficient spare capacity within the phase 1 proposal to accommodate this increase.
- 2.9.** The College currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 360. It is proposed to reduce this on completion of the new building to 200. This number will cater for the forecast demand for places from students living within the College's normal area for the next five years. The building will be designed so that it can be easily extended if required.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

- 3.1.** This is a large and complex project that is at an early stage of planning. It is proposed that the details of the scheme be developed 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 £22.5m. The Business Case has demonstrated a clear value for money rational for this scheme, particularly given the inefficiency of the current split site operation, spare places and poor facilities.

### **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 said regulations and guidance.

As indicated above, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that the Secretary of State's consent is obtained in order to dispose of, or change the use of a school playing 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, legal & human rights, human resources, property, economic regeneration and transport considerations.

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

**7. Background Papers**

These are held on file in the CAYA Development Section

**8. Key Decision Yes**

**9. Officer Recommendation That approval be given to:**

8.1 undertake a statutory public consultation on a proposal to consolidate Glossopdale Community College onto a single site.

8.2 to apply to the Secretary of State for consent to dispose of the playing fields on the College's Talbot Road for residential development.

8.3 the use of expected capital receipts of £9m from the disposal of Talbot Road and Talbot House sites towards the cost of a new school building on the Hadfield site.

8.5 to receive a further report to confirm the budget for the scheme when the statutory proposal is determined and more detail on the cost of the project is known.

**Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Glossopdale Community College**

#### **Move to single site**

#### **Public Consultation**

##### **Introduction**

Derbyshire County Council wishes to consult all interested parties on a proposal to move Glossopdale Community College onto a single site by building a new school on the existing Hadfield Site then disposing of both the main Talbot Road Site and the Talbot House Site.

##### **Background**

Glossopdale Community College currently occupies 3 separate sites, 2 of which are approximately 2 miles apart. Year 7 and year 8 students are based at the Hadfield Site, the main school site on Talbot Road is used primarily by students in years 9, 10 and 11, whilst the adjacent Talbot House forms the base for post-16 provision. The vast majority of the accommodation on the 3 sites is in relatively poor condition; with a current maintenance backlog of over £5m. In addition many of the facilities were designed between 60 to 100 years ago and are not really fit for purpose. Over the last ten years, there has been a significant reduction in the numbers of students attending the College. These have fallen from 1,928 in 2004 to 1,203 in 2014, resulting in the College having approximately 46% spare capacity. Student numbers are forecast to continue falling to 1,051 by 2018. There are significant disadvantages for the College in operating on 3 sites; financially the duplication on 3 sites of resources and certain staff, the cost and waste of time for teachers and other staff travelling between sites, younger students missing out on the opportunity to mix socially and academically with older students, teaching facilities may differ, whilst communication and the professional development of staff can be impeded. There is thus a strong case to rationalise the College's accommodation onto a single site and provide new or refurbished buildings of an appropriate size.

##### **Proposal**

A number of alternatives were investigated by the Authority with the preferred option being to move the entire school onto the Hadfield Site into new purpose-built accommodation.

The Hadfield site is preferred as it has extensive playing fields; including a recently constructed 3G floodlit All-Weather Pitch. In addition, a new building can be constructed on this site with the minimum of disruption to the existing College accommodation and operation. The site is large enough to allow for future expansion if required.

The new building will be designed to cater for 1,000 11-16 aged students plus 200 post-16 places. The school will also be designed so that it can be easily extended if required to take the capacity up to 1440, comprising 1200 11-16 students and 240 post-16 students. It will provide modern, suitably sized, efficient accommodation, suitable for education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Authority's projections forecast that this size of school would be able to provide places for all students from within its normal area. However, building will be designed so that it can be easily extended should there be the need. Within the new College there will be specialist teaching spaces for science, art, music, technology, drama, IT and PE plus general teaching classrooms for maths, English, humanities and modern languages. The accommodation will also include a hall, library, post-16 teaching & social spaces, learning resource areas, dining area & kitchen, a 4-court sports hall and activity studio plus staff offices, work & social areas etc. The College currently has an Enhanced Resource facility; this will be replicated in the new building. It is likely that the existing Youth Centre currently sited at the entrance to the Hadfield site may need to be demolished as part of the project, additional facilities to enable youth service provision to continue will therefore be incorporated into the new building.

### **Cost and timescale**

The cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £22.5m. The funding would be subject to further approval but would include allocations from Capital Grant, and proceeds from the sale of the two sites. This would be a major construction project which could take at least 2 years to design and build. Thus it is likely that the new school would open in 2017.

### **Educational Achievement**

The College firmly believes that this project would have a significant positive impact on the standards of educational achievement in the school. The present facilities for the College are not ideal for teaching and learning. Spare places and poor buildings result in poor use of resources. The cost of this has been estimated at £275,000. Furthermore, staff time is wasted travelling between sites and split site operation results in difficulties for staff co-ordination. A number of split site secondary schools have been consolidated onto a single site in recent years as a consequence.

### **Admissions**

At present the school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 360. It is proposed that if the proposal is implemented the school would reduce its admissions number to 200. The school would continue to have sufficient capacity to meet the demand for

places from its normal area. There is some scope within the first phase for the College to take in more students if its popularity rises as a consequence of the investment.

### **Student transport**

An analysis of the location of existing College students shows that they mainly reside in two areas surrounding the main Talbot Road and Hadfield sites. The numbers of students in both areas are approximately equal. All students normally spend 2 years of their time at the College on the Hadfield site, thus the move to a single site should not have a significant impact on transport.

Normally, students who have to travel over three miles to their normal area secondary school are eligible for free transport, however each case is assessed individually. Moving the entire College to the Hadfield site may mean that some students, for example in Tintwistle, lose their entitlement to assistance for the years they attend the Glossop site. However, others, possibly in areas such as Chisworth and Charlesworth, could qualify for free transport. Overall the numbers involved are likely to be small.

### **Consultation**

Cabinet will consider all views expressed during this consultation before deciding on whether to proceed with the proposal.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please e-mail or write to Geoff Brown ([geoff.brown@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.brown@derbyshire.gov.uk)) Development Section, Chatsworth Hall, Chesterfield Road, Matlock. DE4 3FW by Friday 12 December 2014 when this consultation will end.