

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

22 January 2013

**Joint Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults and
the Director of Property**

**CAYA Capital Programme 2012/13 – Additional Project at Swanwick
School and Sports College – (Education)**

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to include funding for an additional project in the CAYA Capital Programme 2012/13.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1** Swanwick School and Sports College is a special school which currently caters for pupils with a variety of special educational needs, including autism and learning difficulties. However, the Authority has identified a need for additional local provision for some pupils with particularly complex needs related to autism and challenging behaviours, rather than learning difficulties due to low cognitive ability. Mainstream enhanced resource schools cannot always safely meet these behavioural needs, while other special schools are not in a position to provide a suitable curriculum and peer group.
- 2.2** In recent years some pupils with needs of this type have had to be placed in independent or non-maintained special schools. There are a number of schools in and around the County which have admitted these pupils – for example, High Grange School, Derby; Alderwasley Hall; Inscape House, Cheadle and Dawn House, Rainworth.
- 2.3** Agreement in principle has been reached with Swanwick School and Sports College that it could cater for such pupils if it had a dedicated unit of accommodation on site to provide appropriate additional accommodation with a degree of physical separation from the main school building. It is not possible to accommodate this very specialist facility in the existing buildings due to the nature of the students' needs and the difficulty of managing their behaviour alongside the school's existing pupils.
- 2.4** Officers and Advisers within the Authority are confident in the ability of the new Headteacher and his staff to deliver quality provision for this small

but challenging group of pupils. The central location of the school, with good transport routes to the rest of Derbyshire, is another positive factor in its favour.

- 2.5 It is proposed, therefore, to provide a purpose-designed high quality modular building on the School site which would accommodate 10 - 12 students with such needs. This facility would be promoted as specialist provision while remaining an integral part of the special school.
- 2.6 Based on recent experience of placing pupils and the regular requests that the Authority continues to receive from parents asking for specialist provision, it is anticipated that the new provision would be well received and would fill a gap in the Authority's current maintained special school provision. However, it is not intended that pupils in independent or non-maintained special schools would have their current placements changed to Swanwick, unless parents specifically requested this.

3 Financial Considerations

- 3.1 The budget cost for the proposed modular building is £300,000. This could be met from savings on the £2.5m budget approved in December 2009 for the Co-location of Services . This would leave approximately £900,000 unallocated from that budget.
- 3.2 The School would contribute the equivalent of one year's allocation of Devolved Formula Capital (£4,857) and would also fund the loose furniture and equipment plus some IT equipment. The school would also fund an external canopy.
- 3.3 The school would cover the running costs of the new facility from within its annual revenue budget under the new funding system. At present, although the school is funded for 78 places, the number on roll has reached 57 and it is not expected to be full for the remainder of this school year. There should be significant revenue savings for the local authority arising in the future from a reduction in independent and non-maintained special school placement costs. For example the average annual cost for a small number of students placed by the Authority at one of the independent schools listed above is £70,000 per student.

- 4 **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.

- 5 **Is it necessary for call-in to be waived?** No

6 Background Papers Information is held on file in the CAYA Development Section files.

7 Key Decision? No

8 Officer Recommendation

That an allocation of £300,000 be approved from savings on the £2.5m budget approved for the Co-location of Services to incorporate the above project at Swanwick School & Sports Centre in the 2012/13 CAYA Capital Programme.

Ian Thomas, Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

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