
Report to CABINET

Clarksfield Primary School 1 FE Expansion and Academy Conversion

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul Jacques (Cabinet Member for Education)

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Reason for Decision

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places within its area. There is a forecasted shortfall in the East Oldham planning area from September 2018. In order to meet this demand the Local Authority is under a statutory obligation to provide an additional 2 FE in East Oldham by 2020. Current predictions show that an additional 2 FE will be needed to satisfy demand in this area by 2020 increasing to 3 to 4 FE by 2023. Clarksfield Primary School is due to convert to academy status in 2018. Informal discussions have taken place with the proposed academy sponsor of the school (Oasis Learning Trust) regarding the feasibility of adding a 1 FE expansion to the current site. Oasis Learning Trust currently have two schools in the borough (Oasis Academy Hollinwood) and Oasis Academy Limeside.

Clarksfield Primary School is situated in an area of significant demand for places.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approve the basic need funding of £2.9 M for a 1 FE expansion at Clarksfield Primary School.
- Agrees that Officers explore further opportunities to provide an additional 1 FE with other providers in the area
- Delegates authority to the Director of Education and Early Years to develop, consult, procure and arrange for the execution by the Director of Legal Services of any relevant contracts and incidental and ancillary documentation, in accordance with the agreed school expansions programme.

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- Note the release of the previously approved £ 85,564 for electrical condition works. The release of this funding is consistent with the position taken in the Academy Conversion Policy 2016.

Clarksfield Primary School 1 FE Expansion and Academy Conversion

1 Background

- 1.1 Clarksfield Primary School is a large primary school situated in the Clarksfield area of Oldham. The school has 420 pupils on roll and serves a mainly Muslim community. The school was placed in Special Measures in 2017 and is due to convert to academy status and will join the Oasis Learning Trust towards the end of 2018.
- 1.2 Discussions have taken place with the proposed academy sponsor of the school (Oasis Learning Trust) regarding the feasibility of adding a 1 FE expansion to the current site. Oasis are keen to pursue this option. Oasis Learning Trust currently have two schools in the borough (Oasis Academy Hollinwood) and Oasis Academy Limeside, the latter being an outstanding provider of primary education for many years.
- 1.3 The school is currently being overseen by an IEB (Interim Executive Board) put in place by the Local Authority and the Regional Schools Commissioner. Additional support for the school is also being provided by the Oasis Learning Trust in order to drive improvement at the school.
- 1.4 It is government policy that only good or outstanding schools should be expanded except in exceptional circumstances. Once Clarksfield Primary School converts to academy status it will no longer carry an Ofsted grading and therefore presents an opportunity to expand the school and provide much needed additional provision in the East Oldham area. Officers in the Education and Early Years Directorate are confident that the new sponsors will build upon the substantial improvements overseen by the IEB (Interim Executive Board)
- 1.5 The school building is in a poor state of repair and will continue to have considerable pressure on the school condition fund over the coming years. Previously £153,178 has been approved for the necessary electrical works in the school. To date £67,614 of this funding has been spent leaving a remaining fund of £ 85,564 for completion of the electrical works.
- 1.6 A number of more costly options have been previously considered in the East Oldham area including an expansion of Alexandra Park Junior School. This proposal had to be withdrawn due to the school undergoing an Ofsted inspection which resulted in a grading of requires improvement.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Oldham currently has a statutory obligation to create additional primary spaces in the East Oldham District.
- 2.2 A number of options have previously been considered in relation to the expansion of provision in East Oldham, cost analysis reveals the expansion of Clarkfield Primary School to be the most cost effective option in the most geographically favourable position.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1. Expand Clarksfield Primary School by 1 FE post conversion to academy status. The total cost for this proposal is approx. £2.9M. This expansion will provide an additional

210 places bringing the total available primary places at the school to 630 places. In addition the school is located in a central position, in the area of greatest place pressure and is within the LA statutory reasonable distance from all of East Oldham.

- 3.2 Option 2. Expand Littlemoor Community Primary School. The cost for this proposal is £3 M per form of entry.
- 3.3 Option 3. Expand St Thomas Moorside, The cost for this proposal is £3M per form of entry. In addition the school can apply faith criteria on admissions.
- 3.4 Option 4 Expand Woodlands Academy. The cost of this proposal is £3 M per form of entry.
- 3.5 Option 5 Expand Mayfield Academy. The cost of this proposal is £ 4 M per form of entry.
- 3.6 Option 6 Expand St Annes RC by one form of entry. The cost for this proposal is £ 5M per form of entry. In addition the school can apply faith criteria on admissions.
- 3.7 Option 7. Do nothing- this will mean the LA is in breach of its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places across the borough.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 It is recommended that Option One, a 1 FE expansion of Clarksfield Primary school be approved following the conversion of the school to academy status.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has already take place with all stakeholders of Clarksfield Community Primary. Further consultation regarding the expansion and the planning process will be required in the event of a 1 FE expansion being approved by members.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Capital Implications

- 6.1.1 Expansion works to the school will be capital expenditure and will be a charge against the Economy Skills and Neighbourhoods capital programme. Initial costs of the works, as supplied by Oasis Learning Trust, are £2.9m and will be financed using the Council's Basic Need Grant allocation.
- 6.1.2 The Council has a total Basic Needs Grant allocation of £48.1m for the period 2017/21 (£15.4m 2017/18, £22.8m 18/19, £9.9m 19/20 and nil in 20/21). The allocation of £27.370m (including this proposal) and the remaining amount of £20.727m are shown in the table below:-

Capital Project	Basic Needs Grant Allocation (£m)
Crompton House	8.000
Oldham Academy North	5.000
Feasibility Costs	0.100
Greenfield CP	1.862
Royton and Crompton	5.000
Holy Trinity	0.250
Oasis Academy – Dining Room	0.575

Oasis Academy – UTC adaptations	0.350
Alexandra Park Expansion	3.500
Clarksfield Primary (this report)	2.904
Total Allocated	27.370
Total Grant	48.097
Amount Available for Allocation	20.727

- 6.1.3 The ESFA may use a portion of the remaining Basic Needs funding to cover the cost of building the new Oasis Free School (Leesbrook). The exact amount for the build costs and initial fit out of the school are not currently known. However, there will be ongoing negotiations with the ESFA and the impact on the Council's available Basic Need funding will be reported once known.
- 6.1.4 The costings of the proposals have been arranged by Oasis. It is not expected that any works or Council capital outlay would start until the school converted to Academy status. The extension works will be commissioned by the Oasis Learning Trust rather than the Council.
- 6.1.5 Whilst the cost is currently estimated at £2.9m there is the possibility that due to unforeseen events the cost will increase. Whether these costs will fall upon the Council or the Trust will be dependent on what is included in the Academy Transfer agreement. Council funding for any additional costs in relation to the extension will need to be the subject of a separate report.
- 6.1.6 In line with the Council's Academy transfer policy, the existing approved capital budget for Condition Works will pass to the Academy on transfer, subject to the works remaining incomplete on transfer. It is currently anticipated that any further necessary Condition Works will be funded via the Trust accessing DfE capital grant monies and there will be no further call on the Council's capital programme. This will also be dependent on the content of the Academy Transfer Agreement and negotiations up to the Academy Transfer. Again, Council funding for any additional costs in relation to Condition Works will need to be the subject of a separate report.
- 6.2 Revenue Implications
- 6.2.1 The revenue funding of the new school including expansion will have to be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 6.2.2 The LA will not receive any additional funding in the DSG for the estimated increase of 30 pupils in 2019/20 as the DSG settlement will be based on the October 2018 census and will not be re-determined in the 2019/20 financial year.
- 6.2.3 The cost for 30 new pupils for September – March 2019 will be £49k. This will be funded from the growth fund which has £232,323 in 2018/19 still to be allocated in future years.
- 6.2.4 As part of the DfE continuing work on the national funding formula for schools, they are developing the growth factor, to allocate funding to enable local authorities to respond to significant in – year pupil growth. For 2018/19 the growth factor has been allocated to Oldham on the basis of what Oldham planned to spend on its growth from its 2017/18 DSG, because it assumes future growth will follow the same pattern as historic growth. The allocation for Oldham is £1.106m.
- 6.2.5 The DfE is considering options for funding growth in 2019/20 and beyond, therefore at this stage we do not know how much funding will be received after 2018/19. The table below

assumes future growth funding will be allocated as it is currently but this may change following the review of growth funding in the National Funding Formula.

6.2.6 Although there appears to be £145k surplus funds in 2019/20, after the allocation of the current agreed basic need growth of £0.961m as advised above the assumed funding allocation of £1.106m may be reduced significantly. In such circumstances the allocation of growth as outlined in the table would be unaffordable. It would therefore be essential to review the method by which growth funding is allocated to schools within the available resources.

6.7 The table overleaf shows the estimated cost of growth funding

School	Additional Places	Cost 2018/19	Cost 2019/20	Cost 2020-21	Cost 2021/22	Cost 2022/23
		£	£	£	£	£
Existing Approved Growth						
Yew Tree	30	48,778	0	0	0	0
Greenfield	10	16,259	0	0	0	0
East Crompton St Georges	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	0	0
Mills Hill	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	0	0
Propps Hall	10	16,259	16,259	16,259	0	0
Watersheddings	15	24,389	24,389	24,389	0	0
Oasis Academy Limeside	30	48,778	48,778	48,778	48,778	0
St Herberts	5	8,130	8,130	8,130	8,130	8,130
Holy Trinity Dob Cross	5	8,130	8,130	0	0	0
Blue Coat	47	107,738	107,738	0	0	0
Crompton House	28	66,477	0	0	0	0
North Chadderton	30	68,769	0	0	0	0
Saddleworth School	10	22,923	22,923	22,923	22,923	0
Oasis Leesbrooke	65	106,428	0	0	0	0
Greenfield School	30	0	48,778	48,778	48,778	48,778
Crompton House	112	0	323,215	323,215	323,215	323,215
Oldham Academy North	60	0	137,538	137,538	137,538	137,538
Failsworth	10	22,923	0	0	0	0
North Chadderton	30	0	68,769	68,769	68,769	68,769
Clarksfield – to be approved	30		48,778	48,778	48,778	48,778
Budget Adjustments – significant growth		79,701				
To be allocated in future years		232,323				
Anticipated adjustment from Education and Skills Funding Agency		131,037				
TOTAL Estimated Cost	587	1,106,598	960,981	845,113	706,909	635,208

Allocated Growth assuming same allocation as 18-19		1,106,599	1,106,599	912,203	796,335	658,131
Surplus		1	145,618	67,090	89,426	22,923

(James Postle& Liz Caygill)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 The LA has a statutory duty to provide that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the local population and that there are sufficient schools to provide for all pupils the opportunity for a good education.

7.2 In so far as it is now being evidenced that many schools across the borough are oversubscribed it is necessary for the LA to address proposals to ensure that it continues to be able to discharge its statutory duty.

7.3 Legal Services will provide legal advice and support as and when required to do so to support the proposed expansion of Clarksfield Primary School and will advise on the consultation process to mitigate any risk of legal challenge. (Colin Brittain)

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 A co-operative council delivering good value services to support a co-operative borough.

8.2 The provision of sufficient numbers of quality school places is a statutory responsibility and contributes to the Local Authority's outcomes around 'Getting the Basics Right'.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no HR implications from a statutory perspective. Formation of new schools and expansion of existing provision will provide valuable employment opportunities in the borough. (Andy Collinge)

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 By implementing a necessary expansion the risk of running short of school places will be reduced and the likelihood of creating high quality spaces will be increased. (Mark Stenson)

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no IT implications (Jon Howarth)

12 Property Implications

12.1 The proposed expansion will facilitate the expansion of school places in East Oldham to ensure the Local Authority satisfies its statutory duty to ensure sufficient places are available and sufficient surplus places are provided to ensure that an element of parental choice can be facilitated.

12.2 The design, procurement and construction of the project will be considered specifically and project proposals will be drawn up based on funding available and design requirements. (David Rhodes)

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 Any works associated with school expansions are to be carried out in line with the EU Regulations and Oldham Councils Contract Procedure Rules.

13.2 It would be prudent to ensure that the proposed recommended option is aligned with the Local Authority's overall strategy for school expansions. (Darren Judge)

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 It is essential that any expansion works are completed in compliance with health and safety legislation. It is essential that competent contractors are procured and building works are properly managed. (Laura Smith)

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 Admission authorities have a legal duty to comply with parental preference wherever possible. Consequently, Oldham's school place planning approach takes account of identified demand for places. In terms of equality, the proposal will positively increase the supply of school places in the borough.

15.2 The LA makes every effort of ensure that parents are not only aware of which schools are available in their local area and beyond but that the information that is published is clear and concise so that parents and young people are able to make informed choices about the school that they would like to attend. The level of satisfaction in terms of the availability of places at the preferred school contributes directly to community cohesion.

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 Yes (Paula Green)

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 EDC – 04 -18

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 Academy Conversion Policy

- https://www.oldham.gov.uk/site_search/results/?q=Academy+Conversion

19.2 Education Provision Strategy

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/site_search/results/?q=Education+Provision+Policy

20 **Appendices**

20.1 East Oldham Places Matrix