

Report to CABINET

Additional Expansion of Hollinwood Academy

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Shaid Mustaq (Cabinet Member of Education and Skills)

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Reason for Decision

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places within its area. There is significant place pressure at Hollinwood Academy which provides education for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders and social communication difficulties. The academy is the only bespoke provision in Oldham for pupils with these conditions. Without further additional expansion the academy will not be able to offer places to a number of children whose EHCP's have indicated that the academy would be the preferred provider.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approve an additional basic need funding of £300,000 for the increased expansion of Hollinwood Academy
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Education, Skills 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.

Additional Expansion of Hollinwood Academy

1 Background

- 1.1 In February 2019 a delegated decision was taken to contribute £390,000 Basic Need to the physical expansion of Hollinwood Academy. In the time since that decision was made it has become apparent that further place pressure will be made on the school. This additional pressure will mean that the school will require an additional 8 classrooms as opposed to the original 4 approved in February 2019. On current predictions there will be 215 pupils in the school in September 2019. The school has grown very significantly since its original opening in 2015 when it was envisaged it would cater for around 50 pupils. The numbers on role at the school have increased year on year as follows:-

2016 - 100 pupils
2017 – 140 pupils
2018 – 185 pupils
2019 – 215 pupils

The school has provided outstanding provision for a number of years and the vast majority of pupils are resident in the borough (87%).

A piece of work is currently being undertaken to model more accurate forecasting for SEND pupil numbers in future years,

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The LA has a statutory obligation to provide sufficient special school places in the borough.
- 2.2 The additional increased pressure on places is a result of parental choice and also an increase in the number of EHCPs where the school is named as the preferred provider.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option One: Provide an additional contribution to the Newbridge Trust to facilitate the increase in pupils. The contribution required will be for the sum of £300,000, this is in addition to the £390,000 provided and approved in February 2019. The total overall cost of the 8-classroom expansion will therefore be £690,000. The Trust will have contributed an additional £310,000. Planning has been granted and there are no structural issues.

Option two: Not approve the additional funding. This would have legal implications for the LA under the Children Act 2014 as the LA is required under that act to comply with parental preferences contained within EHCP's.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 It is recommended that an additional contribution of £300,000 be approved.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Full consultation in line with statutory requirements will be undertaken.

6 Financial Implications

6.2 Revenue Implications

The current cost of a place at Hollinwood Academy is £18,888 per annum. There are currently 182 students, including 33 Out of Borough, at Hollinwood Academy. The cost of these students is included in the estimated outturn of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2019/20.

Oldham has commissioned 215 places, including 30 Out of Borough students, at Hollinwood Academy from September 2019. For 2019/20 the additional cost of these students of £394,737 has been included in the DSG budget allocation and deployment for 2019/20. (Liz Caygill)

6.3 Capital Implications

The Council contribution to the increased expansion works to the school will be capital expenditure and will be a charge against the People and Place capital programme. The total contribution is £0.300m and can be met from within the balance of currently unallocated Basic Needs Grant.

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). Notification on Basic Needs Grant for 2021/22 will not be given until after the Comprehensive Spending review. The allocation of £34.667m (including this proposal) and the remaining amount of £13.430m are shown in the table below.

Capital Project	Basic Needs Grant Allocation (£m)
Crompton House	10.829
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
North Chadderton Expansion	3.400
Kingfisher (Expansion)	0.750
Kingsland School (Laurel Bank)	0.240
Clarksfield Primary (Oasis)	2.904
Hollinwood Academy contribution	0.390
St Herberts	0.217
Mayfield Academy	2.500
Hollinwood Academy Additional Contribution (This report)	0.300
Total Allocated	34.667
Total Grant	48.097
Amount Available for Allocation	13.430

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. (James Postle)

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide that efficient special needs education is available to meet the needs of the local population and that there are enough schools to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education (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 service and contributes to the Council's outcome around *getting the basics right* (Andy Collinge)

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 There are no HR implications from a statutory perspective. Expansion of existing provision will provide additional valuable employment opportunities in the borough (Andy Collinge)

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 This proposal sets out how the authority will balance its duty of providing appropriate places from agreed resources to finance this (Mark Stenson)

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 Two storey extension to end of existing building between Hollinwood Academy and New Bridge School matching elevational treatment in line with approved Planning Application (Ian Foy)

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 A robust procurement has been undertaken by the trust who will be the client in this project.

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 the 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.

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- 15.2 The LA makes every effort to 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 a preferred school contributes to community cohesion. (Andy Collinge)
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 Advice has been sought on EDI and there are no implications for any vulnerable groups. (Andy Collinge)
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 Yes
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 EDS-06-19
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 Education Provision Strategy 2016-2020
[http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=6343&Ver=4&\\$LO\\$=1](http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=6343&Ver=4&LO=1)
- 19.2 Delegated Member Report March 2019
[http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s102970/Expansion%20of%20Hollinwood%20Academy.pdf?\\$LO\\$=1](http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s102970/Expansion%20of%20Hollinwood%20Academy.pdf?LO=1)
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 None
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