

Report to CABINET

Saddleworth School Update

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Shaid Mushtaq (Cabinet Member of Education and Skills); Cllr Sean Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise

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Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on works that will need to be carried out by the Council in support of the replacement Saddleworth School on the former WH Shaw site.

Recommendations:-

1. The capital programme be amended to accommodate and allocate to this scheme the revised expenditure needed.
2. The land transaction arrangements to facilitate the scheme be approved.
3. The Director of Legal Services or his nominated representative be authorised to sign and/or affix the Common Seal of the Council to all the documents and associated ancillary documents, reports and paperwork referred to in this report and/or required to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
4. The Director of Finance or her nominated representative be authorised to negotiate and sign off the revised Section 151 Letters required to facilitate the scheme and any associated and/or ancillary documents reports and paperwork referred to in this report and/or required to give effect to the recommendations in this report.

Saddleworth School Update

1 Background

- 1.1 The development of a new Saddleworth School was initially proposed under the Building Schools for the Future initiative, with Cabinet approving the outline business case on 26 January 2009.
- 1.2 In March 2013, the Council was advised that, subject to securing a site, funding would be made available to develop a replacement Saddleworth School under the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSPB).
- 1.3 Cabinet (30th March 2015) gave support to the preferred option in the Education Funding Agencies (EFA) Feasibility Study completed in January 2015. The Study identified land to the back of the former WH Shaw Pallet Works Site in Diggle as the preferred site for the construction of the new school..
- 1.4 Following the finding of a judicial review (March 2017), the decision to grant planning permission was quashed. However, an application was resubmitted on the Diggle site with the applications being reconsidered by the Planning Committee and subsequent approval granted on the 17th June 2019.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Planning consent for a new Saddleworth School on the WH Shaw Works Site in Diggle along with planning consents for access and wider highway works; the demolition of the WH Shaw Works Site and listed building consent for the demolition of the link bridge have now been confirmed, following the expiry of the judicial review period. This means that progress can now be made on the building project which once finished will provide pupils with a modern school. The number of places to be provided at the school is to increase from 1,350 to 1,500 to meet increasing demand for spaces.
- 2.2 As previously reported to Cabinet in March 2015 it was acknowledged that the scope and cost of the approved works may fluctuate and that unforeseen issues may arise such that costs for this project could increase.
- 2.3 The purpose of this report is to request additional funds and to request that the approval of updated Heads of Terms for the land transaction is also delegated.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 – agree the recommendations
Option 2 – do not agree the recommendations

4 Consultation

- 4.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Capital Implications

- 5.1.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.
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5.2 Revenue Implications

5.2.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

6 **Legal Services Comments**

6.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

7. **Co-operative Agenda**

7.1 The improvement of education standards, especially at secondary level, is a key priority for the Council and in respect to the co-operative agenda is helping to deliver an inclusive economy where ambition and mobility is supported and encouraged. In terms of thriving communities, the new school will provide a stronger basis for improved partnerships and improved learning. The main contractor responsible for the school build has committed to a local labour agreement in construction.

8 **Risk Assessments**

8.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

9 **IT Implications**

9.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

10 **Property Implications**

10.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

11 **Procurement Implications**

11.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

12 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

12.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

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

13.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

14 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

14.1 As set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda.

15 **Key Decision Reference**

15.1 ECEN-11-19

16 **Background Papers**

16.1 Jan 2009: CABINET:BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE;

July 2014: CABINET: ACQUISITION OF FORMER WH SHAW PALLET WORKS
HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, DIGGLE FOR REPLACEMENT SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL;

March 2015: CABINET: SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL: SITE SELECTION

17 **Appendices**

17.1 None