

Report to CABINET

PART A

Fir Bank Primary School – 30 Place Nursery Class

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Shaid Mushtaq (Cabinet Member of Education and Skills);
Cllr Eddie Moores (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Director of Economy

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Reason for Decision

Cabinet approval is requested to allocate Basic Need Funding to establish a 30-place nursery class, housed in a new extension to the school building. This will extend the education offer to pupils between the ages of 3 and 11.

Recommendations

Cabinet members are asked to note the options set out in this report and to approve the recommendations set out in Part B of this report.

Fir Bank Primary School – 30 - place nursery class

1 Background and Current Position

- 1.1 The Oak Trust who operates Fir Bank Primary School submitted a proposal to establish a nursery class to meet demand for pre-school places. The proposal has received support from both the Cabinet portfolio holder for Children and Young People and the Education Provision Group (Sept 20).
- 1.2 A RIBA Stage 2 design and feasibility study, (supported by CIPB Jan 21) has now concluded and this has facilitated the production of a robust cost estimate for the

classroom extension at a cost of £1,089m. A client technical team will need to be procured to take the project forward through the remaining RIBA Stages.

2 **Current Position**

2.1 Following the completion of a RIBA Stage 2 feasibility the Council's cost consultant has confirmed a budget cost estimate of £1.089m.

2.2 Should Option 1 be agreed then the scheme will progress through a grant agreement to the Oak Trust, who will commission its own professional team and contractor to deliver the scheme.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Option one: Approve a funding award of up to £1.089m from Basic Need Funding to establish a 30-place nursery class.

3.2 Option two: Do not approve a funding award of up to £1.089m from Basic Need Funding to establish a 30-place nursery class. This option will not meet the identified need for nursery places.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 It is recommended that Option 1 is approved.

5 **Consultation**

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

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 Capital Implications - As set out in Part B of this report

(James Postle)

6.2 Revenue Implications - As set out in Part B of this report

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 Legal Services supports the progression of this project via the grant route.

Legal Services shall execute a Grant Agreement, using the standard template for grants for school and nursery new builds, to grant monies to fund the build

The Grant Agreement will provide for Oldham Council to oversee the project and sit on the project board to ensure that the grant is expended appropriately.

(Colin Brittain)

8. Co-operative Agenda

- 8.1 The Oak Trust's vision is to provide year-round childcare and extended days through before and after school provision. There is need for flexible provision to meet the needs of working parents. Uptake data shows that 66% of children attending the nursery are accessing the extended 30 hours entitlement. It will also support parents to take-up training, maintain or return to employment in the local economy. A Co-operative council delivering good value services to support a co-operative borough.

(Andy Collinge)

9 Human Resources Comments

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

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 The proposed recommendation in this report sets out how the Council will meet its obligations to deliver an appropriate amount of capacity to fulfil its Statutory obligations on nursery provision. (Mark Stenson)

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 The ICT requirements in the proposed new build extension will be part of the building project and will include connectivity, active equipment, structured cabling, telephony, Wi-Fi, ICT hardware and software licenses for which financial provision has been made. (Andrew Hall)

12 Property Implications

- 12.1 The building extension will become a school asset under the terms of the lease agreement with the Oak Trust and therefore the Trust's responsibility to maintain. (Andrew Hall)

13 Procurement Implications

- 13.1 The Trust will need to procure its own design team to take the project forward – the structure of these appointments will need to be set out and agreed and linked to the strategy adopted for construction work and contract i.e. D&B/Traditional. A strategy and route to market will also need to be agreed for contractor procurement.

(Dan Cheetham, Procurement).

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 In terms of equality, the proposal will positively increase the supply of nursery places in the borough. 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 ED-01-21

19 **Background Papers**