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Children's Integrated Commissioning

Strategic School Place Planning: Landau Forte College Expansion Proposal

Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places exist for those pupils residing within its administrative boundary. Following a high level of growth in the primary sector, pupil numbers are now increasing in secondary schools. Secondary school expansions were implemented in September 2018 and September 2019, through close partnership working with schools and academy trusts, to meet the increasing demand for places.
- 1.2 Current City-wide secondary pupil numbers and projections are set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Based on projections, the peak year for the City-wide Year 7 in-take will be 2023-24. Work has, therefore, taken place to scope a further secondary school expansion proposal, at Landau Forte College (the College), as part of the Council's forward planning to ensure the commissioning of sufficient school places over future years.
- 1.3 The proposed College expansion proposal is an important part of the Council's strategy for ensuring sufficient secondary school places. The school is centrally located and provides an opportunity to create additional capacity that is accessible to pupils living in different areas of the city. The total number of additional secondary school places required, to ensure sufficient places for the peak in-take year of 2023/24, and future years, is as follows:

	Current admission number	Proposed admission number	Increase per Year Group	Increase across Years 7-11
Landau Forte College	196	300	104	520

- 1.4 The Council has worked closely with the College's Trust (Landau Forte Charitable Trust (the Trust)) to bring forward a proposed expansion scheme to add an additional 104 places in each year group, over years 7-11. Full details of the financial implications and capital programme changes required for the scheme are set out in the accompanying confidential Part 2 Cabinet report.
- 1.5 In addition, the Trust has given its agreement in principle to increase the College's PAN to 260 from September 2022, as an interim measure, to help increase flexibility in the secondary schools' sector, subject to having sufficient accommodation as the proposed expansion project progresses.

- 1.6 A major capital scheme with a budget cost of £11.936m is proposed to create an additional 520 places at the College. The Council has been working in close partnership with the Trust and there are four principal elements of the scheme:
- The extension and remodelling of the existing College site to provide additional capacity.
 - The purchase of an additional site for the construction of a new block containing classrooms and ancillary space.
 - The purchase of a second site and the remodelling of the building to provide suitable teaching space for the College.
 - The remodelling of existing College space to create a new 15 place SEND unit for children with autism and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, as part of the Local Area SEND strategy.
- 1.7 As set out in the Part 2 Cabinet report, the £11.936m funding will consist of:
- £6.707m Basic Need funding for the provision of new school places.
 - £0.459m SEND funding.
 - £0.309m existing school capital programme funding.
 - £3.960m additional Council funding to be met from the MTFP Provision for Future Investment corporate capital budget.
 - £0.500m contribution from the Trust.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the revision of the approved 2021/22-2023/24 capital programme and approve commencement of the £11.936m Schools Capital Programme priority scheme at Landau Forte College, as set out in the accompanying confidential Part 2 Cabinet report.
- 2.2 To approve the award of a grant agreement to Landau Forte Charitable Trust to deliver the capital works associated with this project for an additional 520 secondary places.
- 2.3 To approve the allocation of £0.459m in SEND funding for the creation of a new 15 place SEND unit for children with autism and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.
- 2.4 Subject to the outcome of the Council's due diligence, to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning, to complete site acquisitions and subsequent leases in relation to the College expansion, as set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The proposed expansion scheme is needed to ensure the Council can deliver its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

- 3.2 In accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, additions to the Council's capital programme not provided for in the approved budget are required to be reported to Cabinet, as set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Local authorities have a legal duty to ensure that sufficient school places exist for all children and young people residing within their boundary. The Council must, therefore, plan, organise and commission places in Derby City to ensure sufficient school places are available.
- 4.2 As background information, City-wide primary pupil numbers increased significantly between 2012/13 and 2016/17 resulting in 18 primary school expansions being carried out to accommodate the growth in primary pupil numbers. Following the high level of growth in the primary sector, pupil numbers are now transitioning to secondary schools. Additional secondary school capacity was created at Bemrose School, Derby Cathedral School, Derby Moor Academy, Murray Park School and West Park School in 2018 and 2019, through close collaborative working with schools and academy trusts, to meet the increasing need for secondary school places.

Planning for Further Growth in Secondary Pupil Numbers

- 4.3 Pupil numbers and projections are regularly updated, monitored and reviewed. Current City-wide secondary pupil numbers and projections are set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Based on projections, the peak year for the Citywide Year 7 intake is 2023-24. Work has taken place to scope a further secondary school expansion proposal, as part of the Council's forward planning to ensure the commissioning of sufficient school places over future years.
- 4.4 In developing school expansion proposals, a range of factors are considered, including the location of schools and whether school sites allow for expansion. Landau Forte College is centrally located and provides an excellent opportunity to create essential additional capacity in a location that is accessible to pupils living in different areas of the city.
- 4.5 The Council has worked closely with the College and its Academy Trust in developing feasibility proposals to deliver a capital project opportunity that will provide an additional 520 secondary school places.
- 4.6 The College has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 196. The proposal is to increase the College's PAN to 300 from September 2023, creating additional capacity as follows:

	Current PAN	Proposed PAN	Increase per Year Group	Increase across Years 7-11
Landau Forte College	196	300	104	520

- 4.7 In addition, as an interim measure, the Trust has provided an agreement in principle to increase the College's PAN to 260 from September 2022, to help increase flexibility in available secondary school places, subject to having sufficient accommodation as the proposed expansion progresses.

Proposed Capital Scheme

- 4.8 A major £11.936m capital project is proposed to deliver the additional 520 places. Full details of the anticipated scheme costs and proposed funding package are set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report.
- 4.9 Following initial feasibility work, the anticipated costs of the project have been jointly agreed with the Trust. The anticipated construction costs set out in the accompanying Part 2 report are subject to detailed design work and procurement. Due to current volatility in construction costs, and the final design works being undertaken, final costs could vary. The Trust have agreed to continue to develop and progress the scheme in line with the available budget.
- 4.10 The proposed scheme consists of four principal elements:
- Purchase of an additional site and the construction of a new 2 storey extension of approximately 1,200m², containing teaching and ancillary space.
 - Remodelling and a 119m² extension of the existing College site to provide additional capacity.
 - The purchase of a second additional site, and the remodelling of the building to provide appropriate teaching space for the College.
 - Remodelling of approximately 270m² of an existing College block to provide a new 15 place SEND unit for children with autism and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

The Council will undertake necessary surveys and due diligence in respect to the proposed site acquisitions and will only proceed if any outcomes can be addressed.

- 4.11 The proposals include the following works around College's existing site:
- Eight new classrooms of 55m² to 60m².
 - Two new science labs of 60m².
 - A new multi faith space of 55m².
 - A new catering/café space of 55m².
 - New toilets and associated ancillary and circulation space.
 - Extending two existing classrooms, a new entrance and increased dining capacity.
 - Reconfiguration of space and widening corridors.
 - External works, including landscaping, fencing and drainage.
 - Additional fixed ICT equipment and necessary furniture.

- 4.12 It is proposed to purchase two additional sites for use by the College, to provide the necessary additional places. It is proposed that the scheme will include a new block on one site, and some limited internal remodelling of the other site. The Council has commissioned independent valuations of both sites. Full details of the two additional sites are set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report.
- 4.13 Once the site purchase has been completed for the second of the two additional sites, it is proposed that a capital scheme will be developed by the Trust. The Trust will then undertake remodelling works to the existing building necessary for the College to accommodate the additional pupils. Provision for these works is included in the proposed overall budget of £11.936m.
- 4.14 The scope of this project also includes provision for a designated SEND Enhanced Resource (ER) Unit, included within the initial feasibility process, as part of the Local Area SEND Strategy.
- 4.15 This element of the project will enable the College to designate 270m² as a SEND ER unit, linked to the proposed funding details set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report. This will be for the creation of a new 15 place SEND unit for children with autism and SEMH needs, as part of the Local Area SEND strategy. The proposal includes the remodelling of the first floor of the existing art block to create:
- Two SEN Classrooms of 42m².
 - Two small therapy/group rooms of 11m².
 - Two classrooms of 60m².
 - Two small group room/sensory rooms of 29m².
 - Life skills/break out area of 105m².
 - A study area.
 - Toilets and associated ancillary and office space.
- 4.16 It is proposed that the construction works associated with the project will be funded through a standard Council grant agreement with the Trust, as the Trust will be responsible for delivery of this project and undertaking the works directly, working closely with their appointed professional and technical advisors. The Council will, of course, continue to work closely with the Trust during this process, ensuring close collaboration and robust governance arrangements are continued throughout the project. Monthly project management and delivery meetings will be established as part of our joint partnership working between the Council, Landau Forte Trust, and their professional and technical advisers, to ensure good governance and delivery of this complex project.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Trust will work closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to seek the necessary Secretary of State approvals required to change their admission number, amend their funding agreement and to lease the additional sites from the Council.
- 5.2 The Trust have been working in partnership with the Council in jointly developing the project proposals. This close partnership working will continue as the project continues to progress.

Other options

- 6.1 School place planning proposals have been developed with a view to creating additional capacity across schools in the City to accommodate growth in the pupil population. In developing proposals, a range of factors have been considered, including the location of schools and whether school sites allow for expansion. Following the previous expansion schemes set out in 4.2, further expansion options have been considered in detail, including discussions with other schools.
- 6.2 Landau Forte College is centrally located and provides an opportunity to create additional capacity in a school that is easily accessible to pupils living in different areas of the city. Following previous Secondary expansions, and careful consideration of future pupil projections and school site capacity, Landau Forte College presents an excellent option to ensure sufficient secondary school places.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 As set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report, the proposed £11.936m funding for the proposed capital scheme will consist of:
 - £6.707m in Basic Need funding for the provision of new school places.
 - £0.459m in SEND funding.
 - £0.309m in existing school capital programme funding.
 - £3.960m in additional Council funding to be met from the MTFP Provision for Future Investment corporate capital budget.
 - £0.500m contribution from the Trust.

Other funding options will also continue to be considered should this be possible.

- 7.2 In line with other Academy expansions, it is proposed to award grant funding to the Trust through the Council's standard grant terms and conditions for the Trust to then undertake the necessary capital works, as set out in the accompanying Part 2 Cabinet report.
- 7.3 The anticipated costs of the project have been jointly agreed with the Trust following initial feasibility work completed by their professional and technical advisors. The anticipated construction costs set out in the accompanying Part 2 report are therefore subject to detailed design work and procurement, and the Council will work closely with the Trust and their professional advisors as the scheme progresses. Payments to the Trust will be made through the Council's standard grant terms and conditions.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Each local authority with responsibility for education must secure sufficient primary and secondary education provision to meet the needs of the population of their area, under s.13 S13A and S14 (1) Education Act 1996.

- 8.2 It will be necessary for the Trust to seek DfE consent to lease the additional sites and obtain approval to vary their funding agreement for this proposed expansion. The Council will work closely with the Trust and the DfE to support these approvals and assist in the provision of information required by the DfE.
- 8.3 To fund the works arising from the proposal, it will be necessary for the Council to enter into a grant funding agreement with the Landau Forte Charitable Trust, the Multi Academy Trust which Landau Forte College (the College) form a part.

Climate implications

- 9.1 The necessary remodelling and refurbishment work, forming part of the Trust's scheme, will be carried out in line with the latest Building Regulations approved documents on environmental performance.

Other significant implications

10.1 Equalities Impact

The remodelling and refurbishment work forming part of the Trust's scheme will take reasonable steps to remove, alter or provide reasonable means of avoiding physical features that make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people.

10.2 Health and Safety

The Trust will be required to follow all applicable health and safety regulations in undertaking the remodelling and refurbishment works necessary as part of the grant funded scheme.

10.3 Property and Asset Management

Necessary due diligence and independent valuations have been undertaken in developing the proposed scheme. Subject to the satisfactory completion of further due diligence and survey work, it is proposed to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Integrated Commissioning, to complete the site purchases and subsequent disposals in the format most suitable to secure successful completion of the project.

- 10.4 As part of the site purchase due diligence, it is proposed that the Council will complete the purchase of the sites, before entering into a back-to-back lease to the Trust for a nil consideration, in line with standard DfE Academy lease terms.

10.5 Risk Management and Safeguarding

The proposed project will be managed and monitored in line with the Council's project management and risk assessment procedures and is subject to obtaining the Council's Portfolio Management Office gateway approvals. Robust project governance arrangements will be put in place with a joint project delivery team, consisting of the Council, Trust and College, meeting monthly.

10.6 Corporate objectives and priorities for change

This report supports the Council priority outcomes of Enabling individuals and communities, raising achievement and skills, and Making the most of our assets.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Madhuri Gembali, Solicitor	08/09/21
	Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services	21/10/21
	Toni Nash, Head of Finance Organisation and Governance	18/10/21
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Director of Commissioning	19/10/21
Report sponsor	Andy Smith, Strategic Director for People Services	09/09/21
Other(s)	Pauline Anderson, Director of learning, Inclusion and Skills	09/09/21
	Jayne Sowerby-Warrington, Head of Estates and Property Review	02/08/21

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Current City-wide secondary pupil numbers and projections.

City-wide Secondary Pupil Numbers and Projections

Academic Year	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
2016-17	3026	3026	2851	2743	2737	956	841	29	16209
2017-18	3076	3015	2985	2837	2700	1004	728	16	16361
2018-19	3245	3028	2969	2942	2784	897	854	13	16732
2019-20	3385	3246	2999	2896	2874	771	786	18	16975
2020-21	3416	3368	3213	2972	2910	882	740	13	17514
2021-22	3459	3419	3352	3184	2967	876	806	14	18077
2022-23	3464	3465	3405	3325	3180	887	800	15	18541
2023-24	3600	3480	3461	3387	3330	945	810	15	19028
2024-25	3492	3606	3467	3434	3383	980	863	15	19240
2025-26	3379	3497	3590	3438	3428	989	895	16	19232
2026-27	3387	3363	3460	3538	3410	996	904	16	19074
2027-28	3347	3371	3328	3410	3509	990	910	17	18882

