



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**13 January 2004**

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

## Village School Site – Hastings Building

### RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the demolition of Hastings building on the site of the former Village school.

### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The unoccupied Hastings block, part of the former Village School Complex, is suffering from increasing and extensive vandalism. Some of the vandalism and trespass could lead to those responsible being seriously injured.
- 2.2 The building requires extensive repair and refurbishment. No sustainable use of the building has been identified since its closure in September 2001.
- 2.3 There are significant and increasing costs in maintaining the building in a safe and secure condition

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The former Village School, particularly the unoccupied Hastings block, is suffering from increasing and extensive vandalism. Despite having a security guard on site part of the time, children have been accessing roofs and getting into all parts of the building and putting themselves at risk of serious injury. Around £40 000 has been spent recently on preventative measures to reduce the risk of injury to vandals and trespassers and repairs to vandalism. Additional security has been employed with weekly costs of £500 per week. Clearly, expenditure of the level is not sustainable on an on-going basis.
- 3.2 It is proposed to demolish the Hastings building as soon as possible and ideally in the February half-term when children from the Pupil Referral Unit are off site. The practicality of this will depend on the extent of asbestos in the building and the time needed for its removal before demolition.
- 3.3 Ward members have been consulted on the proposal.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- Options for the use of the building suggested during the consultation process and beyond have been considered but found to be impractical. The report to Cabinet on 28 October 2003 gives more details of these.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

1. The cost of demolition is estimated to be in the region of £140 000, subject to the extent of asbestos removal work. This can be funded from the capital receipt for the sale of the site adjacent to Homelands House to Central Derby Primary Care Trust.

### Legal

2. Buildings must be maintained in a safe condition.

### Personnel

3. None

### Corporate Themes and Priorities

4. The proposal will contribute to the Theme of **'safer and healthier communities'**.