
Report to
Cabinet

6 March 2007

Report of
Director of Children, Learning & Young People

Title
Statutory Notices for Deedmore & Hawkesbury Fields Special Schools

1 Purpose of the Report

To request approval for the publication of Statutory Notices to:

- 1.1 Close Deedmore Special School (moderate learning difficulties)
- 1.2 Close Hawkesbury Fields Special School (severe learning difficulties)
- 1.3 Open a new broad-spectrum special school initially on the existing sites of Deedmore School and Hawkesbury Fields School with a plan to co-locate in a new building on the site of Moathouse Primary School.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the publication of statutory notices to close Deedmore School (MLD)
- 2.2 Approve the publication of statutory notices to close Hawkesbury Fields School (SLD)
- 2.3 Approve the publication of statutory notices to open a new broad-spectrum special school initially on the existing sites of Deedmore School and Hawkesbury Fields School with a plan to co-locate in a new building on the site of Moathouse Primary School.
- 2.4 In addition, it is also recommended that authority be delegated to the Director of Children, Learning and Young People to determine Statutory Proposals for Schools where no objections have been received to the proposals contained in the published Statutory Notice

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 In July 2005, following a report back on the outcomes of the consultation on the Inclusion & SEN Strategy, Cabinet approved the recommendation to begin work to secure resource for a first broad-spectrum special school in the city and to carry out a public consultation on the proposals to build a primary broad-spectrum school in the NE of the city. This school would replace two existing special schools, Hawkesbury Fields and Deedmore Schools and would also cater for some pupils at Key Stage 1 & 2 who would otherwise be placed at Sherbourne Fields School.
- 3.2 Following an unsuccessful bid for DfES targeted capital funding in September 2005, funding has since been identified to meet the cost of the new broad-spectrum school (see *Financial Implications*). This will be subject to further approval by Cabinet at an appropriate stage in the process
- 3.3 The brief for the new school is being developed in consultation with school staff, governors, and parents of the two schools working with City Council officers and specialist support staff. The intention is to appoint an architectural design team during 2007/08 to design the new school and, subject to confirmation of the necessary funding, to commence construction during 2008/09 for completion in 2009/10.

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

- 4.1 In order to move towards the next stage of development and to demonstrate the council's commitment to the establishment of the first broad-spectrum school in the city, it is proposed to plan an appropriate timescale for bringing the two special schools together on to one site
- 4.2 In preparation for moving into the new school building on the Moathouse site when it is completed, further work will continue with the governors, staff and parents of the two schools to ensure a successful transition to the new school
- 4.3 The issuing of statutory notices at this time will allow sufficient work to be done to establish the governance arrangements for the new school as well as signalling to the DfES that planning is at an advanced stage.
- 4.4 It is also proposed that further consultation is carried out, in line with the recommendation set out in the 2005 Cabinet report, on the specific proposals for Deedmore and Hawkesbury Fields Schools. This consultation would involve public meetings in the schools during the six-week period of the statutory notices and would also build on the current work being done on the design brief for the new school

5 Other specific implications

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Area Co-ordination		✓
Best Value		✓
Children and Young People	✓	

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Comparable Benchmark Data		✓
Corporate Parenting	✓	
Coventry Community Plan		✓
Crime and Disorder		✓
Equal Opportunities	✓	
Finance	✓	
Health and Safety		✓
Human Resources	✓	
Human Rights Act	✓	
Impact on Partner Organisations	✓	
Information and Communications Technology	✓	
Legal Implications		✓
Property Implications		✓
Race Equality Scheme		✓
Risk Management		✓
Sustainable Development		✓
Trade Union Consultation	✓	
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		✓

Children and Young People

The provision for children and young people with SEN/LDD is a vitally important element of school provision in Coventry. The creation of a new broad-spectrum school will provide significantly enhanced opportunities for this group

Corporate Parenting

Looked After Children are given a high priority by schools and LEA officers. A number of LAC have learning difficulties and are placed in special schools. This development will increase the opportunities and life chances of LAC

Equal Opportunities

Children and young people with SEN/LDD often experience greater discrimination and have fewer opportunities than children without such difficulties. The proposals for a new school , co-located with a mainstream school, will provide greater equality and better access to resources for these children

Financial Implications

The total cost of the new school is estimated at £8 million. Provisional funding to meet this cost has been identified as follows:

Total Estimated Cost	£8m	
DfES Modernisation Funding 2007/08 (Cabinet March 2006)	£1,959,000	Secure
Sale of former Deedmore School site	£3,000,000	Subject to Secretary of State approval to sell playing fields
Primary Capital Funding from 2009/10	£3,100,000	Subject to developing plan and approval by DfES
Total	£8,059,000	

The revenue costs for the new special school will be met wholly from existing special schools budgets within the Dedicated Schools Grant

Human Resources

Considerable work has already taken place to engage staff from the two special schools in the planning process. The city council will seek to avoid compulsory redundancies when the new school is established and it is expected that there will be sufficient posts in the new school for those who wish to have one.

Human Rights Act

The new co-located school will provide more inclusive opportunities for disabled children

Impact on Partner Organisations

Planning for the new school will require close partnership with the PCT, Social Care and Private/Voluntary Organisations and will enable multi-agency support and provision for children with SEN/LDD to be made.

Trade Union Consultation

There has been regular and frequent consultation with the Trade Unions throughout the development of the Inclusion & SEN Strategy. As the next phase of implementation of the strategy gets underway there will be further consultation with all unions on the specific issues for staff in the schools concerned

6 Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out through a number of different processes. This project will be monitored through a project management team and will be subject to careful scrutiny and regular assessment on progress towards identified milestones.

Further monitoring will be carried out through the Inclusion Strategy Group and progress reports to the Cabinet Member for Children, Learning & Young People

7 Timescale and expected outcomes

The publication of statutory notices will be carried out during March/April with a view to reporting back to Cabinet and the Schools Organisation Committee, if necessary, before May. The eventual timescale for the closure of the two schools and the opening of the new school will be dictated by the overall timescale for the completion of the new building. The current estimate for this is 2009/10

	Yes	No
Key Decision		✓
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)		✓
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)		✓

List of background papers

Consultation on Inclusion & Special Educational Needs Strategy: Towards Enhanced Educational Provision – Cabinet Report 2005 July 2005

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Consultation on Inclusion & Special Educational Needs Strategy: Towards Enhanced Educational Provision – Cabinet Report 2005 July 2005

Location

SEN & Inclusion

3rd Flr, Council House 2