

## **Summary Sheet**

### **Council Report**

Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting – 9 January 2017

### **Title**

Proposal to increase capacity at Wales High School

### **Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

### **Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas – Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services

### **Report author(s):**

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### **Ward(s) Affected**

Wales

### **Executive Summary**

Wales High School is rated by Ofsted as a good school and is currently oversubscribed and the trend is set to continue in future years.

This report seeks Cabinet approval to increase capacity at the school to accommodate the current and future demand for places, subject to a successful planning application.

### **Recommendations**

1. That, subject to a successful planning application, approval be granted to the proposal to increase capacity by a minimum of 150 places at Wales High School by the installation of additional classrooms to accommodate current and future pupil numbers.
2. That £1.2m of the £2.5m approved and earmarked for increasing secondary school places in the borough in 2017/18 by the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting of the 11/04/2016, be allocated to fund the proposed works at Wales High School and that this expenditure be reprofiled into 2018/19 to reflect the construction programme for this project.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 – Pupil population numbers and capacity and summary of consultation

**Background Papers**

Reports to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Services (24.7.2013, 13.11.2013 and 15.1.2014):

Proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN), at Thurcroft Infant School, from 60 to 75 by expansion of the building.

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families Services (16.10.2013):

Proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) in, Reception / Foundation Stage 2 at Wales Primary School for 2 years to accommodate bulge cohort pupil numbers.

Report to Cabinet (11.07.2016):

Proposal to increase secondary school capacity across the borough, to meet future demand.

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Proposal to increase capacity at Wales High School**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That, subject to a successful planning application, approval be granted to the proposal to increase capacity by a minimum of 150 places at Wales High School by the installation of additional classrooms to accommodate current and future pupil numbers.
- 1.2 That £1.2m of the £2.5m approved and earmarked for increasing secondary school places in the borough in 2017/18 by the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting of the 11/04/2016, be allocated to fund the proposed works at Wales High School and that this expenditure be reprofiled into 2018/19 to reflect the construction programme for this project.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has a historic annual profile of satisfying 90%+ parental first preferences on entry to Primary and Secondary schools on national offer day. School Place planning in the borough is RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated as 'green' by the Department for Education (DfE) and 84% of new school places are delivered in Ofsted rated 'Good / Outstanding' schools compared to the national average of 80%.
- 2.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 to ensure a sufficiency of school places and satisfy parental first preferences as far as possible. The duty also extends to the requirement to ensure new school places are delivered in 'successful and popular' schools.
- 2.3 Wales High School is an 'academy status' school following conversion in October 2010. As an Academy the Governing Body are the 'Admissions Authority' for the school and, under the requirements of the DfE School Admissions Code 2014, 'own admission authorities are not required to consult on their Published Admission Number (PAN) where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN'.
- 2.4 The school has experienced a significant increase in pupil numbers in recent years and remains successful and popular. The school is currently oversubscribed and the trend is set to continue in future years. Appendix 1 details current pupil numbers and capacity at Wales High School and previous feeder school expansion projects.
- 2.5 The Governing Body has increased the Published Admission Number (PAN) in recent years to satisfy parental preferences on National Offer Day for entry into secondary phase education. This process has followed the DfE School Admissions Code 2014 guidance to 'notify the local authority in good time to allow the local authority to deliver its co-ordination responsibilities effectively'.

- 2.6 As a result of the additional pupils being allocated places as outlined above and, expected future pupil numbers there is a requirement for additional classrooms to be installed by September 2018. With the installation of the additional classrooms, the school will have an increased capacity of at least one hundred and fifty (150) places. The additional classrooms will allow for sufficient space for all pupils and also allow the Governing Body to set a PAN in future years in line with increased demand for places and the additional space available.
- 2.7 The design of the accommodation will be such, that should further resources be necessary at the school in the future, this can be facilitated.

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities under the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 'to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area'.
- 3.2 The additional classrooms would enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore maintain or increase performance against that indicator on national offer day for entry to secondary phase education.

### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 **Option 1:** Maintain capacity at the school at the current level. However as the school is already oversubscribed this would mean that current lack of space issues would remain and some parents and carers would be unable to secure a school place in the local area.
- 4.2. **Option 2 – Recommended:** Increase capacity at the school to enable the Headteacher and Governing Body to forward plan long term with sufficient capacity to accommodate the expected future pupil numbers.
- 4.2.1 It is recommended that the proposal to increase capacity by a minimum of 150 places at Wales High School by the installation of additional classrooms to accommodate current and future pupil numbers be approved.
- 4.2.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under, the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 to ensure a sufficiency of school places and satisfy parental first preferences as far as possible. The duty also extends to the requirement to ensure new school places are delivered in 'successful and popular' schools. The addition of the additional classrooms will further support this statutory requirement and performance indicator.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 As an Academy the School Governing Body is the 'Admissions Authority' and, under the requirements of the DfE School Admissions Code 2014, 'own admission authorities are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose either to increase or keep the same PAN. If, at any time following determination of the PAN (set during the annual admissions consultation), the admissions authority decides that it is able to admit above its PAN, it must notify the local authority in good time to allow the local authority to deliver its co-ordination responsibilities effectively'.
- 5.2 As the proposal falls outside the requirement to complete a 'prescribed alteration' under the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, a period of local consultation has been held (with Governors, parents / carers, staff and local Ward Elected Members) as required by the above regulations.
- 5.3 Responses to the consultation completed between 30<sup>th</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 are detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. Cabinet should have regard to the responses when considering the recommendations.
- 5.4 There were 2 responses received to the consultation and a summary is provided below:
- 5.4.1 Responses to the consultation are broadly supportive of the proposals and highlight the need for additional capacity at the school to support pupil learning and outcomes. Reference is also made to the condition of some buildings at the school, however as an Academy, the school is outside of the Local Authority's control and receives funding directly from the Department for Education for premises repairs and maintenance.
- 5.4.2 Should the proposal be approved by Cabinet, further meetings and correspondence will need to take place with Governors, Staff, Pupils and Parents / Carers in relation to the building work timeline, health and safety implications and how this will be managed on site as part of the planning process.

## **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 6.1
- |                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| January 2017   | Seek Cabinet approval of the proposal |
| December 2017  | Planning application                  |
| February 2018  | Commencement of building works        |
| September 2018 | Sign off completion and handover      |
- 6.2 The project will be led by the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) Corporate Property Unit.

## **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 The proposal in principle, to increase secondary school capacity across the borough, to meet future demand for places was approved at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (minute number 46). Approval of the borough wide strategy was granted subject to detailed reports relating to individual projects being brought forward for consideration by Cabinet.
- 7.2 Within the approved Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Capital Programme for 2016-18 (approved at Cabinet / Commissioners decision making meeting on 11/4/2016) an amount of £2.5m has been allocated in 2017/18 to provide secondary school places in the Borough.
- 7.3 The cost of this project is estimated at £1.2m in total, to provide the additional 150 places to accommodate current and expected future pupils and associated resources. It is proposed that this is accommodated within the £2.5m Capital Programme and that this expenditure is re-profiled to reflect the fact that the majority of this spend will be in 2018/19.
- 7.4 The funding for the project will be provided from basic need funding (provided to Local Authorities from the DfE to meet future increased pupil place demand).
- 7.5 The project will be tendered using the legally compliant YorBuild framework.

## **8. Legal Implications**

- 8.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, to ensure a sufficiency of school places in areas of current and future need, provided in successful and popular schools.
- 8.2 The school is regularly full or oversubscribed on national offer day for entry in to secondary phased education. The school remains extremely popular as a first preference for parents and carers applying for school places in the local area.
- 8.3 As an Academy the School Governing Body is the 'Admissions Authority' and, under the requirements of the DfE School Admissions Code 2014, Governors have previously and will continue to, notify the Local Authority of any increase in PAN to satisfy parental preferences, in good time to allow the local authority to deliver its co-ordination responsibilities effectively.
- 8.4 As the proposal falls outside the threshold to complete a full 'prescribed alteration' under the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and associated regulations, the requirement to complete a period of local consultation has been fully adhered to.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

- 9.1 There are no Human Resource implications to consider from the Local Authority's perspective. Future rising cohort numbers may well lead to further employment opportunities at the school. This however would be for the Trust Board / Governing Body to determine as the employer.

## **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 10.1 The proposals would lead to more parents and carers being able to access their first preference school, maintaining or further improving the secondary school 'National Offer Day' first (1<sup>st</sup>) preference and combined three (3) preference profile within the Borough.

## **11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

- 11.1 The proposals would lead to more parents and carers being able to access their first preference school, increasing parental satisfaction in being allocated a preferred school.

## **12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

- 12.1 The proposal to add additional capacity at the school will have minimal impact on neighbouring secondary schools in the authority, as the secondary pupil population continues to rise and Wales High School is already operating at above 100% capacity.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 There are always risks associated with increasing the number of school places at a school, since this could adversely impact numbers at other schools. However the school is already operating above its maximum capacity and struggling to be able to offer places in year.
- 13.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, to ensure a sufficiency of school places in areas of current and future need.
- 13.3 The additional capacity at the school will allow the Governing Body to strategically plan for future cohort numbers and continue to deliver an effective education to all pupils within the local area.

#### **14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Karen Borthwick (Assistant Director – Education and Skills)

Approvals Obtained from:

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services: Named officer

Mark Chambers (Finance Manager CYPS)

Jonathan Baggaley (Finance Manager Regeneration, Environment and Capital)

Assistant Director of Legal Services: Named officer

Neil Concannon (Solicitor)

Head of HR Services: Named Officer

Paul Fitzpatrick (CYPS HR Business Partner)

Head of Procurement: Named Officer

Helen Chambers (Principal Procurement Officer)

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