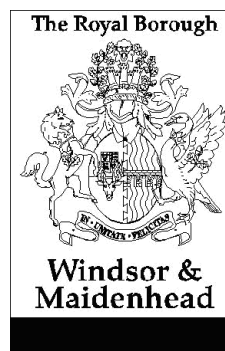


Report for: INFORMATION



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	Main paper - Part I, Appendix A Part II (Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)
Title	Lowbrook School additional classroom (Urgent Decision)
Responsible Officer(s)	Russell O'Keefe, Strategic Director of Corporate and Community Services, 01628 796521
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Richard Bunn, Interim Head of Finance, 01628 796510
Member reporting	Councillor Saunders, Lead Member for Finance
For Consideration By	Council
Date to be Considered	21 June 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	Immediate
Affected Wards	All

REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report deals with the urgent decision, taken with the necessary approval of the Mayor in the absence of a Chair of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny.
2. The decision was taken to add a £1.6m capital budget to the capital programme to build an extension to Lowbrook School providing classroom space for an additional 120 pupils and making the school a 2FE school on a permanent basis.
3. The urgent decision was required as we were required to confirm further school place allocations from the 1st June to comply with our allocation duty and the Academy can only offer the places if there is certainty over the finance of the expansion. The Interim Head of Finance therefore used delegated powers under the Council's Constitution to approve the budget in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance.
4. The report recommends that Council acknowledges and notes that this decision has been taken.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
30 additional places will be available at the school for those who have already applied.	September 2016
120 additional places will be available	September 2017

1. Details of Recommendations

RECOMMENDED: That Council:

- i) **Notes the inclusion of a £1.6m capital budget in the 2016-17 capital programme for the construction of an extension to Lowbrook School along with temporary works for September 2016.**

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The recommendations are made to ensure that an adequate budget exists to cover the costs of the full expansion of the school which includes classrooms and ancillary spaces.
- 2.2 The council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for every school age child whose parents request one. We receive capital grant funding to support the provision of these so called “basic need” places. Our forecasts of demand have indicated September 2016 would be the highest level and that the investment programme currently approved would provide sufficient places. That is how the admissions round has played out in the Maidenhead area.
- 2.3 However within the sub area of Cox Green, the level of demand has been particularly high and all of the schools are full, with a significant number of pupils being offered schools outside of the area. Specifically 96 families applied for the 30 places available at Lowbrook Academy. Those 30 places were allocated to 2 Children in Care and 28 children with siblings already in the school. 3 siblings were not offered a place and none of the 24 first children living in the catchment area were offered a place.
- 2.4 The school does not have the physical building to accommodate more pupils, however through the use of an adjoining piece of land, leased to Cox Green Academy, it is possible to extend the school to make it a 2 FE school on a permanent basis. The cost of the building project is estimated at £1.6m for an additional 120 places. This is £13.3k per place which is lower than the primary school average level of £13.7k published by the Education Funding Agency in February 2016 and represents good value in school expansion terms.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered
Capital spend on the expansion.	> £1.6m	£1.5m -1.6m	£1.4m-£1.5m	< £1.4m	31 May 2017

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

- 4.1. The urgent decision was taken primarily to commit £1.6m to the Lowbrook Academy for this project, the first £375k of which will be spent in the remainder of 2016 to accommodate 30 extra children from September 2016.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A strip of land that is currently leased by the Council to Cox Green School will be transferred to Lowbrook School for the new classroom. The lease will be re-assigned to Lowbrook School.

6. VALUE FOR MONEY

- 6.1 Careful budget monitoring and detailed discussions with the school are intended to ensure the project comes in on budget and that value for money is achieved.

7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

- 7.1 N/A

8. Risk Management

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
That construction cost may be higher than estimated	Costs may be in excess of the £1.6m budget.	RBWM will control the £1.6m budget and liaise closely with the school to keep to it.	None

9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 This report links to the following objectives:
- Residents First – Support Children and Young People
 - Value for Money - Invest in the future

10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

- 10.1 This is a monitoring report with no actions related to staff or service provision. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has not, therefore, been completed for the production of this report. An EQIA would be required should this report generate any changes to policy.

11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Lowbrook school will need to staff the new classroom, costs will be met from the School's revenue budget which will be augmented by an allocation from the Schools Forum Growth Fund in line with other schools which agree to expand at the local authority's request. No implications for the Council.

12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

- 12.1 None for the Council

13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 None.

14. CONSULTATION

14.1 None

15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

15.1 The internal works will be started immediately and will allow the school to take 30 extra pupils in September 2016. The design of the permanent expansion will start immediately and it is expected to be completed in time for September 2017. The school will take 60 pupils in September 2017.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 **Appendix A (part II)** This appendix contains information which relates to discussions and the tendering process which are yet to be completed. Disclosures may prejudice the Council's position.

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

17.1 None

18. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Saunders	Lead Member for Finance	10-6-2016	13-6-2016	Changes included in final report.
Cllr Dudley	Leader of the Council	10-6-2016	13-6-2016	Changes included in final report.
Cllr Airey	Lead Member for Children's Services	10-6-2016	13-6-2016	Changes included in final report.
Kevin McDaniel	Head of Schools and Educational Services	10-6-2016	10-6-2016	Changes included in final report.
Corporate Management Team (CMT)	Managing Director and Strategic Directors	10-6-2016	10-6-2016	Changes included in final report.
External None				

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?
For information	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Richard Bunn	Interim Head of Finance	01628 796510