

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 7 October 2020
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Report title	Funding Mechanisms for School Expansion Schemes	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre Education and Skills	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Bill Hague	Head of School Business and Support Services
	Tel	01902 555100
	Email	bill.hague@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People Leadership Team	3 September 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	29 September 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Council entering into all legal agreements in relation to school expansions included in Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020.
2. Authorise the Council entering into all legal agreements in relation to schools included in Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022.
3. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in consultation with the Director of Children's Services to approve the details of all agreements authorised under recommendations 1 and 2 of this report.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note that:

1. The Council entered into grant agreements necessary for the expansion of Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy and Aldersley High School.
2. These approvals are essential in order to progress the expansion schemes.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Authority is granted to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in conjunction with Director of Children's Services to enter into all legal agreements in relation to schools included in the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020.
- 1.2 To seek delegated authority to enter into all legal agreements for schools included in the Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 27 June 2017, the formal proposal of schemes included within the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2017-2019 was approved by Cabinet, this included the permanent expansion of Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy and Aldersley High School.
- 2.2 On 21 November 2018, the formal proposal for schools to be included within the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-2020 was approved by Cabinet.
- 2.3 On 3 June 2020, the formal proposal for schemes included within the Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 was approved by Cabinet.
- 2.4 When academies are included in the Council's school expansion programmes to permanently increase capacity, it is the responsibility of the individual Trusts to deliver the expansion schemes. The Council funds the schemes and releases capital expenditure via Grant Agreements.
- 2.5 The Council's Project and Works team provides a quality assurance role to ensure that the required capacity is delivered in a timely fashion and offering value for money.

3.0 Reasons for Approvals Required

- Authority is granted to the Council to enter into all legal agreements in relation to schools included in Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019 -2020 and Primary School Expansion Programme.
 - Authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in conjunction with Director of Children's Services to enter into all legal agreements in relation to schools included in Primary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022 and the Secondary School Expansion Programme 2021 and 2022.
- 3.1 These approvals are essential in order to progress the expansion schemes.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options to consider in this report.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

5.1 Appropriate approvals are required in order to progress these schemes and to enter into all legal agreements.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.
[TS/28092020/U]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

7.2 That all necessary legal agreements are entered into in order to protect the local authority. The agreements will included but not be limited to agreements for the grant of funds and any ancillary agreements necessary for the expansions to progress.
[TS/28092020/W]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 This report has equal opportunity implications as the contents have direct reference to educational provision for children and young people in the City. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications in relation to this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 Trusts would be responsible for delivery of the expansion; the Corporate Landlord service would be involved in the project to provide assurance that the proposed scheme is delivering the required capacity in a timely fashion and offering value for money.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to:

- ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one
- to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and;
- to help fulfil every child's educational potential.

11.2 The Local Authority must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its area and promote diversity and parental choice.

11.3 These duties contribute to the health and wellbeing of young people and young adults in the education system and a good education is a significant wider determinant of health.

12.0 Covid implications

12.1 There are no Covid implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 Cabinet - 27 June 2017 - [School Place Planning](#)

13.2 Cabinet - 21 November 2018 - [Secondary School Expansion Programme 2019-20 and Primary School Provision](#)

13.3 Cabinet - 3 June 2020 - [School Expansion Programmes 2021 and 2022](#)