

Report to: Schools Forum

Subject: Remodelling of Cliffdale Primary Academy And Redwood Park School

Date of meeting: 19 October 2016

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Report by: Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education

Wards affected: All Wards

Key decision: No

Full Council Decision No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum about the current position with regard to the allocation of £2m from the Dedicated Schools Grant carry-forward to support the remodelling of both Cliffdale Primary Academy and Redwood Park Secondary School to support children with more complex needs.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note the progress and programme of design for works at both Cliffdale Primary Academy and Redwood Park School
- b) Note the phased delivery approach being taken for both of the identified projects within the £3.2m available and support any future bidding opportunity that may arise.

3. Background

3.1 On 9th February 2016 Full Council allocated £1.2m towards works required to remodel the accommodation at both Cliffdale Primary Academy and Redwood Park Secondary School in order to support children with more complex needs. In addition to this investment, on 24th February 2016 Schools Forum endorsed a request to the Education Funding Agency to support the allocation of £2m from the Dedicated Schools Grant carry-forward to support the remodelling. The Education Funding Agency subsequently approved this request on the 17th June 2016.

- 3.2 The Council is currently working with both Redwood Park Secondary School and Cliffdale Primary Academy (Solent Academies Trust) to ensure that the two schools can take more complex cohorts of pupils whilst at the same time the council works with mainstream schools to develop a more inclusive mainstream education. To achieve this will mean a significant remodelling of the accommodation at both schools in order to establish smaller classrooms and more break out facilities. The remodelling will also need to address both suitability and condition issues due to the age of both buildings.
- 3.3 Detailed feasibility work has been undertaken at both schools. This followed workshops being held at both schools in 2015 to determine the scope and scale of works required to remodel the accommodation. The feasibility work has confirmed that the overall cost to remodel both schools would be in excess of £5m. Detailed designs are now being prepared so that both schemes can be completed in phases should further funding become available in the future. This is outlined in sections 4 and 5 of this report.

4. Cliffdale Primary Academy

- 4.1 As the needs in the City have changed and mainstream schools have become more inclusive, Cliffdale Primary Academy has taken on pupils with more complex needs including autistic spectrum conditions. The accommodation has not changed to support this.
- 4.2 An analysis of the school buildings at Cliffdale Primary based on modern building standards has determined that the current accommodation is suitable for between 88 and 100 pupils with complex needs (there are currently 114 on roll). In order to maintain the current number of pupils on roll, the academy requires additional accommodation. The reasons for this are as follows:
- There is no flexibility in the current accommodation to provide dedicated support for pupils with specific and complex needs
 - Four of the classrooms are currently based in temporary buildings. Whilst these are relatively new and in good condition they are separated from the main building which is not ideal
 - Pupils with complex needs require an increased level of multi-sensory work. This demands a larger range of support spaces to allow groups of varying sizes to take part in different therapy activities. A number of smaller rooms are therefore required in addition to the classrooms.
 - The accommodation generally lacks small support spaces to enable group work or therapy.
- 4.3 Design work has progressed well and [Appendix 1](#) shows the current agreed design approach which is being developed and can be delivered in manageable phases, depending on when further funding becomes available.

Phase 1: New build teaching space to include four classrooms, a music/drama/sensory space and ancillary spaces. Internal refurbishment and relocation of one temporary classroom to

Redwood Park Secondary School. The tender process is expected to commence in February 2017, with construction beginning in May 2017. Completion is expected in February 2018.

Phase 2: New build teaching space to include two classrooms and ancillary spaces and relocation of existing temporary classroom to Redwood Park School.

5. Redwood Park School

5.1 An analysis of the school buildings at Redwood Park School based on modern building standards has determined that the current accommodation would be suitable for approximately 80 pupils with complex needs. In order to maintain the current number on roll (134), the school requires additional accommodation. The reasons for this are as follows:

- A number of the current classrooms are too small for educating a larger number of pupils with complex needs
- Pupils with complex needs require an increased level of multi-sensory work. This demands a larger range of support spaces to allow groups of varying sizes to take part in different therapy activities. A number of smaller rooms are therefore required in addition to classrooms.
- There is a lack of small support spaces to enable 1:1 or 1:2 group work or therapy.
- Some classrooms are on the first floor and there is no lift access making these rooms less accessible for pupils with mobility issues

5.2 Early design work was slow to commence following a change in the management structure at the school and the installation of an Interim Executive Board. However, design work is now underway working closely with Solent Academies Trust. The school is due to transfer to Solent Academies Trust on 1st December 2016. [Appendix 2](#) shows the current concept design that is being progressed and the final design is scheduled to be agreed by November 2016.

5.3 It is likely that the first phase will be out to tender between May and July 2017 with a start on site expected by September 2017.

6. Future Funding

6.1 Design for the first phases of both projects is being undertaken within the constraints of the £3.2m budget that is available, with an acknowledgement that future phases will be subject to further funding becoming available.

6.2 The DfE has recently invited local authorities to bid for new special free schools. The opportunity in Portsmouth is limited due to site constraints and financial viability, but the council is reviewing this opportunity in light of the work that is about to start at both Redwood Park School and Cliffdale Primary Academy.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment as the recommendations are for noting and do not have any impact upon a particular equalities group.

8. Legal Comments

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Finance Comments

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Appendices:

- 1. Phase 1 and Phase 2 Cliffdale layout plan
- 2. Redwood Phasing Plan

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: