

To: Sarah Hohler – Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

By: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director, Children, Families and Education

Subject: Wyvern School Ashford - Project to Replace Accommodation at Clockhouse with a New Extension On Main Buxford Site

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek approval to commit capital funds to a project to replace Key Stage 1 (KS1) Accommodation with an extension on the main site.

Background

1. (1) Wyvern School is a 155 pupil Special School and as part of the Special School Review, the designation was changed to profound, severe and complex learning needs. The school was formerly two separate schools and the first phase of rebuilding took place in 2000 when the KS3/KS4 accommodation was built at Buxford. The school was designed so that eventually the whole school would be based on this site.

(2) KS1 currently occupies premises at Clockhouse that are 1 mile away from Buxford. The building dates from the 1970s and is very unsuitable. The room sizes do not conform to current standards and there is a lack of storage. The toilets and care suites were extended and refurbished as an interim measure but the premises remain very inadequate.

(3) A multi-agency support hub (MASH) building and a new nursery are being developed on the school site

Proposal

2. (1) The proposal aims to replace the unsuitable accommodation at Clockhouse with a fit for purpose extension to the Buxford premises. The extension was designed as part of an overall plan for the site including the MASH. The current proposal is for a project to provide sufficient accommodation to allow the school to consolidate.

(2) The project provides for seven general classrooms, a large space, toilets, care suites and offices. The building will be single storey and comply fully with the Disability Discrimination Act. There will be an extended access road to the new building and additional car parking.

(3) On completion of the project the existing KS1 building at Clockhouse will be vacated. The site will be declared surplus to education needs with the intention of disposing of it for residential development, the capital receipt to be invested in the Special School Review programme.

Resources Implications

3. The project is part of the Special School Review programme (SSR). The current estimated cost is £3m and it is expected to be delivered for that sum.

Recommendation

4. The Cabinet Portfolio holder for Children, Families and Education is requested to agree that the project, outlined in the attached report, proceed using £3m funded from the Special School Review Programme 2009 - 11

Background Document – None

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