

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item No. 9 (IV)

TROWBRIDGE AREA BOARD
14TH JANUARY 2010

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF MARGARET STANCOMB SCHOOL, BRITISH ROW, TROWBRIDGE

Purpose of the Report

To advise the Board of the proposed disposal of Margaret Stancomb School, and to allow the Members an opportunity to consider whether they wish to propose any alternative community uses for the property, under the Council's recently adopted procedure for the disposal of surplus assets.

Background

The Council has been progressing preparations to dispose of Margaret Stancomb School (0.476h. and shown outlined in red on the attached plan) the property having become vacant following the transfer of its pupils to Bellefield School.

The capital scheme to develop the former Parochial Junior School site (now Bellefield School) to accommodate all the pupils from the amalgamated schools was developed on the basis that the capital receipt from the sale of the Margaret Stancomb School would part fund the extension of the Bellefield School.

Earlier this year (and before the introduction of the procedure for the disposal of surplus assets) planning consultants were appointed by the Council, with a view to obtaining planning permission for the residential redevelopment of the site, prior to its sale. Consultations with the Council's Planning and Highways teams indicated that the proposed use of the site for residential purposes was acceptable in principle. A scheme has been drawn up, which envisages the provision of up to 22 housing units, including three in the Old School building at the front of the site. Public consultation on the proposal has not been undertaken at this stage.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

There are no environmental impacts arising directly from this report.

Financial Implications

The Bellefield School extension project was based on a financial contribution from the sale of the Margaret Stancomb School (for residential redevelopment) in the 2010/11 Capital Programme. Any alternative community use is likely to mean that this receipt is not achieved, and thus an alternative funding source would be

required. The Council also continues to incur security costs for the building whilst it is vacant.

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

HR Implications

Not applicable as the property is vacant.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Area Board Members consider whether they wish to propose any alternative community use for the property.

George Batten
Director of Transport, Environment and Leisure

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Appendices: Site plan

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report

Or

The following unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report: