

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Cabinet**

**Date of meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

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**Subject: WELLINGTON SECONDARY EXPANSION PROJECT**

**Cabinet member: Laura Mayes**

**Key Decision: Yes**

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#### **Executive Summary**

Wellington Academy is currently near capacity for delivering 11-18 education. The current and ongoing increase in primary numbers in the area will result in additional pressure on the Academy and a considerable risk for the Council in placing children in their local school. Assuming the birth rate continues at the average rate for the past four years and the housing is delivered as planned, there will be a significant shortfall in a range between 550 and 632 places by 2025. The precise shortfall will depend on the final mix of dwelling sizes, social housing & windfall sites actually built.

Tidworth has a significant army presence. This is an important factor in the planning of school places for Wellington Academy. In March 2013 the Government announced significant changes to British Army postings in the UK & Germany which will see an increase in troops and their families moving to Wiltshire between now and 2020. Although numbers are unconfirmed, this provides additional risk for both the Council and Wellington Academy in meeting the basic need for places for 11-15 year olds and additional Post 16 students.

#### **Proposal(s)**

Cabinet is asked to approve phase 1 of a two phase project plan to deliver a 10/12 classroom block. This will enable the Academy to move Post 16 learners from the main school building, thus providing places to meet the Council's basic need for 11-15 students in the area.

#### **Reason for Proposal**

Based on the current net capacity of Wellington Academy, an additional 200/250 places will be required by 2015/16.

**Name of Director: Carolyn Godfrey**

**Designation: Children's Services**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. Wellington Academy, in the Tidworth Community Area is proposing to further develop their campus to meet the basic need of students in the area. Cabinet is asked to agree to the expansion of the campus in two phases. Phase 1 is a 10/12 block classroom extension to accommodate Post 16 learners thus freeing space on the main school campus to meet basic need. Phase 2 will extend the Post 16 new build to accommodate a further 300/350 students by 2025. Initially, the finances for these developments will be funded by Wiltshire Council allocating money from DFE basic need capital funding, pending receipt of section 106 funding as trigger points in the signed agreements are reached. Developer contributions will partially fund the overall cost of the schemes.

### **Relevance to the Council's Business Plan**

2. It is a statutory duty of the Council to ensure there are sufficient educational places to meet the needs of children in the area.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

3. The extension of Wellington Academy is to meet the demand for 11-16 places in the area and funded through the designated Basic Need fund. There is no requirement for external capital from the Council. The extension would be leased for 125 years to the Academy.

### **Background**

4. The Tidworth Community area includes the Parishes: Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, Chute, Chute Forest, Enford, Everleigh, Fittleton, Ludgershall, Netheravon, Tidcombe & Fosbury and Tidworth. The Area Board also works closely with Tidworth Community Area Partnership and the MOD. The Area Board for school place planning purposes is best considered in two distinct sections – primary schools feeding into The Wellington Academy plus one school which feeds into Avon Valley College, Durrington which is located in the adjacent Area Board of Amesbury.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy proposes a further 1625 houses in the Tidworth area. Combined with the current increase in primary numbers this will begin to impact on The Wellington Academy in 2014/15. Assuming the birth rate

continues at the average rate for the past four years and the housing is delivered as planned there will be a significant short fall in a range between 516 and 598 places by 2026. The precise shortfall will depend on the final mix of dwelling sizes, social housing & windfall sites actually built.

5. Tidworth also has a significant army presence. This is an important factor in the planning of school places. In March 2013 the Government announced significant changes to British Army postings in the UK & Germany which will see an increase in troops and their families moving to Wiltshire between now and 2020. These families are also expected to be based in Wiltshire for longer periods of time than the current rolling posting programme. Wiltshire Council already works closely with the Army to co-ordinate the impact the large military community has on the County's infrastructure, including Education provision in the County. We are currently awaiting further detail from the MoD about the precise distribution of personnel and their families across the various military sites on Salisbury Plain.
6. There are 6 primary age schools in the Tidworth area and 1 secondary school catering for the 11-19 age range. There are no special schools in the area. The birth rate has remained more or less the same in recent years. This pattern along with the impact of future troop movements and significant housing development is likely to increase demand for primary school places over the coming 10 years.

The current increase in primary numbers will begin to impact on The Wellington Academy in 2014/15. Assuming the birth rate continues at the average rate for the past four years and the housing is delivered as planned there will be a significant short fall in a range between 550 and 632 places by 2026. The precise shortfall will depend on the final mix of dwelling sizes, social housing & windfall sites actually built.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

7. Cabinet is asked to approve the use of Basic Need Capital funding to support the expansion work at Wellington Academy to provide additional places to meet basic need by moving the Post 16 learners into a new purpose built block leaving space within the school for additional 11-15 places. The project incorporates the design, build and occupation of the Post 16 building and represents phase 1 of a 2 phase project to secure between 550 and 632 Secondary places in the Tidworth community area by 2025.
8. We have identified that the school will be at capacity for September 2014 and that a further 200/250 places will be required shortly afterwards, certainly by 2015/16. The aim is to delivery phase 1 through a total build area of 1200 sq/m provided in a new two-storey block. In the first phase, consisting of 10/12 general classrooms the plan is to offer flexibility to form smaller spaces suitable for Post 16 teaching plus student study areas thus providing 200/250 places.

### **Safeguarding Considerations**

9. The expansion will provide school places in a safe environment for children in the immediate locality. Without the expansion young people would need to be transported to secondary schools a long way from their community leaving them more vulnerable due to the distance they are away from home.

## Public Health Implications

10. Educational attainment is linked to improved health and wellbeing outcomes in later life making the provision of sufficient school places for the growing population key to improving outcomes for our young people. The proposal will allow children and young people to access education close to home supporting the potential for use of active travel to and from school. The new block will be adjacent to the current Wellington Academy site. The Academy offers a range of sporting facilities to the pupils including a hall, netball courts and football pitch. This expansion provides the opportunity for young people in the community to participate in sports and thereby promote healthy behaviours and practices to ensure the population stay healthy and ensure health resilience.

## Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

11. Additional space will incur increased use of energy to operate the building with costs financial costs met by the Academy. Increased capacity will see additional numbers of students travelling to and from the campus. The scope of works being proposed for the proposed development will comprise new buildings. These will be designed to ensure compliance with Wiltshire's renewable energy and environmental requirements as well as building control and other statutory requirements.

## Equalities Impact of the Proposal

12. This proposal is aimed at meeting the basic need requirements for students living in the Tidworth area. The duties in relation to schools are:

Not to discriminate against a person:

- a) In the arrangements it makes for deciding who is offered admission as a pupil
- b) As to the terms on which it offers to admit the person as a pupil
- c) By not admitting the person as a pupil

Not to discriminate against a pupil:

- a) In the way it provides education for the pupil
- b) In the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- c) By not providing education for the pupil
- d) By not affording the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- e) By excluding the pupil from the school
- f) By subjecting the pupil to any other detriment

Not to harass:

- a) A pupil
- b) A person who has applied for admission as a pupil.

Not to victimise a person:

- a) In the arrangements it makes for deciding who is offered admission as a pupil
- b) As to the terms on which it offers to admit the person as a pupil
- c) By not admitting the person as a pupil.

Not to victimise a pupil:

- a) In the way it provides education for the pupil;
- b) In the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service;

- c) By not providing education for the pupil;
- d) By not affording the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service;
- e) By excluding the pupil from the school;
- f) By subjecting the pupil to any other detriment.

## **Risk Assessment**

13. The main risk to this proposal is that the academy is already near capacity and there will be a considerable shortfall in places for students in the area, both coming into year 7 and year 12 as well as those that move to the area in-year.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

14. Identified risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken:
- 1. The Academy is approaching capacity and children aged 7-15 will have to be accommodated in 'out of area' provision' at substantially increased transport cost to the Council and disruption for the child and family;
  - 2. Young people aged 16-19 will have to travel to access Post 16 education including across the border at considerable cost and negative publicity for Wiltshire Council.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

15. Identified risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Action to mitigate the risk</b>
1. Financial envelope does not enable delivery of proposal	Project steering group to drive specifications and work with property services and design team to ensure proposals are deliverable
2. Delays in project delivery	Management of project to an agreed timeline

## **Financial Implications**

16. The capital costs are fully funded from section 106 agreements with developers and DfE Basic Need allocations. The estimated total cost of the project is £2.5m. Wiltshire Council has identified Basic Need funding already received and allocated it to initiate the scheme, pending receipt of section 106 funding as trigger points in the signed agreements are reached.

There are risks associated with undertaking work in advance of receiving section 106 deposits but as legal agreements exist these would be considered minimal. As with any large scale construction project cost overruns could occur throughout the project but would be mitigated by the proposed project management and monitoring.

## **Legal Implications**

17. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and to promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. They must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice.

## **Options Considered**

18. Current work with The Wellington Academy on current space utilisation to ease current pressures and plan for 2014. Additional space through a new build is the only option for September 2015 delivery.

## **Conclusions**

19. The proposal in sections 7 and 8 is for cabinet to approve phase 1 of a 2 phase project to secure between 550 and 632 secondary school places in the Tidworth community area by 2025 through the development of a Post 16 building. The conclusions reached having taken all of the above into account.

**Name of Director: Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Designation: Children's Services**

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**Date of report:** 30 September 2013

## **Background Papers**

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

None

## **Appendices**

None

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