



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 8 December 2022

Report of the Executive Director - Children's Services

Primary Level Education in Tibshelf

1. Divisions Affected

Tibshelf

2. Key Decision

- 2.1 This is not a Key Decision as it only affects one division and the financial implications will be addressed in a separate paper.

Purpose

- 2.2 The report provides the outcome of a consultation into the future buildings of Tibshelf Infant and Nursery School and Townend Junior School and seeks Cabinet approval to move forward with plans for the new school building, subject to funding.

3. Information and Analysis

- 3.1 In 2013, Tibshelf Community School moved to its new location leaving the old school site and playing fields in the centre of the village. Two previous consultations have taken place on the disposal of surplus land and the building of a new school building on the old playing fields. The council has continued to pursue the option of a new school building but the plans have been delayed due to difficulties resolving issues relating to planning, disposal, funding and a concern within the community about

building further housing on the surplus land. In the meantime, Tibshelf Infant and Nursery School and Townend Junior School have chosen to federate.

- 3.2 The new school building will provide modern purpose-built accommodation which can offer additional places which can't be achieved in the existing buildings due to restrictions on the size of the site. Since the project's inception, expenditure on the infant and junior schools has been kept to a minimum and there is now work amounting to £572K at the Infant School and £651K at the Junior School on their respective condition reports.
- 3.3 There was concern that the community did not fully understand that to build a new school on the former Tibshelf School site, it would be necessary to dispose of the remaining land and the sites of the current infant and junior school in order to part fund the project. A further consultation has therefore taken place over the period 7 September to 5 October 2022 and a copy of that consultation is at Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The consultation requested views on two options:

Option 1 – to continue to work towards building a new school to accommodate both the Town End Junior School and the Tibshelf Infant School on the former school playing fields. The funding for this is totally dependent on the sale of the remaining land, the Town End Junior and Tibshelf Infant sites for housing to form a capital receipt towards the school project. There would still be planning issues to overcome as the playing fields are listed as green space in the Bolsover District Council's Local Plan. Even with the capital receipt, there will be a need for the Derbyshire Council Council to provide additional capital funding for the project to proceed.

Option 2 – to discontinue work on the new school building but invest the council funds already agreed for the project into a refurbishment programme at both the Infant and Junior Schools. The former school site would be disposed of and could be sold for housing but the playing fields would remain as an open space.
- 3.5 There were 4 responses to the consultation although only 2 offered an opinion on the options above. One strongly supported the building of a new school for the village. The second response was in favour of a new school but did not wish to see additional housing in the village and therefore opted on balance for option 2.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 A consultation was carried out as described in paragraph 3.3 above.

5. Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 The two key options are detailed above but a further option would be to do nothing, which would not address the issues identified in the condition reports at the two schools.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Previous Cabinet papers relating to the earlier consultations are held by Development.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – The consultation paper on Primary Level Education in Tibshelf.

9. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Notes the outcome of the consultation.
- b) Agrees to proceed with a new school building for the co-location of the infant and junior schools subject to securing additional funding.

10. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 10.1 Cabinet to consider and note the outcome of the consultation
- 10.2 It is beneficial for the infant and junior schools in Tibshelf to be provided with a new school building, built to new operational standards in order to

provide a good learning environment and replace the ageing building stock located on constrained sites.

11. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

11.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 In 2016, Cabinet approved funding for a new school building based on a £7M budget comprising £3.1M borrowings and £3.9M capital receipt for the sale of the old secondary school site, surplus land on the playing field and both the Infant and Junior school sites. The cost of the project and the value of the land for disposal has been re-assessed and the total value of the project is now £12.5M. The value of the land has diminished slightly and as a result, there is a £6.76M deficit.
- 1.2 A capital strategy bid has been submitted for the 2023 Prudential paper to be considered if the decision of this paper is to proceed with the project. A further report will be brought to Cabinet for approval to build once funding has been received.

Legal

- 2.1 Pursuant to Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 a local authority shall (so far as their powers enable them to do so) contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education, and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of their area.

Human Resources

- 3.1 There are no human resources considerations as both schools will remain in existence and the staff will transfer to the new building if it goes ahead.

Information Technology

- 4.1 N/A

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 N/A

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The school will be built to modern standards and provide a good teaching environment to enhance the pupils achievement.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 The building will be designed to be carbon neutral and support the Council's climate change initiative.

PRIMARY LEVEL EDUCATION IN TIBSHELF NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Aim of the Consultation

To judge the level of support for building a new school on the former site of Tibshelf Community School and to confirm the community's understanding of the implications of taking a decision to provide a new building.

Background

In 2013, Tibshelf Community School moved to its new location leaving the old school site and playing fields in the centre of the village. Two previous consultations have taken place on the disposal of surplus land and the building of a new school building on the old playing fields. The council has continued to pursue the option of a new school building but the plans have been delayed due to difficulties resolving issues relating to planning, disposal, funding and a concern within the community about building further housing on the surplus land. The council would like to seek views on the two options that are open.

Option 1 – to continue to work towards building a new school to accommodate both the Town End Junior School and the Tibshelf Infant School on the former school playing fields. The funding for this is totally dependent on the sale of the remaining land, the Town End Junior and Tibshelf Infant sites for housing to form a capital receipt towards the school project. There would still be planning issues to overcome as the playing fields are listed as green space in the Bolsover District Council Local Plan. Even with the capital receipt, there will be a need for the council to provide additional capital funding for the project to proceed.

Option 2 – to discontinue work on the new school building but invest the council funds already agreed for the project into a refurbishment programme at both the Infant and Junior Schools. The former school site would be disposed of and could go for housing but the playing fields would remain as an open space.

The council would welcome your views and an indication of your preferred option. Please provide your feedback to sue.pegg@derbyshire.gov.uk. The consultation will take place over the period 7 September to 5 October 2022.