

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education and Skills
Date:	10 July 2019
Title:	St Francis Special School, Fareham
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek spend approval to the project proposals at St Francis Special School.

Recommendations

- 2 That the Executive Member for Education and Skills, grants spend approval to the project proposals for St Francis Special School at the total cost of £4,394,000.

Executive Summary

- 3 St Francis Special School provides education for children aged between 2 and 19 years old with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Built in 1977 to accommodate pupils with moderate learning difficulties, the existing classrooms are undersized and require improvements to better meet the increasingly complex needs of the pupils that now attend the school.
- 4 This project addresses these shortcomings through providing four new classrooms, ancillary teaching spaces and hygiene facilities, together with internal alterations and external access improvements.
- 5 The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 17 January 2019, with a budget of £4,394,000.
- 6 A Planning application has been submitted and a decision is anticipated in July 2019.

Background

- 7 St Francis Special School provides education for children aged between 2 and 19 years old with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. There are currently 93 pupils on roll.
- 8 The project is included in the Children's Services Capital Programme, approved at the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day on 17 January 2019, which outlines the available budget for the project.
- 9 Providing four new classrooms, the works are required to address shortcomings in the existing accommodation due to the increasingly complex needs of the pupils. Many of the existing classrooms are undersized and require improvements to better meet the educational needs of the pupils that now attend the school. The proposals also provide improved accessibility, additional ancillary teaching spaces and hygiene facilities.
- 10 The numbers attending the school are not currently planned to increase as a result of these proposals.

Finance

11 Capital Expenditure:

The Capital Expenditure has already been approved in principle; the following tables outline the breakdown of its distribution across the project:

Capital Expenditure	Current Estimate £'000	Capital Programme £'000
Buildings	3,772	3,772
Fees	622	622
Total	4,394	4,394

12 Sources of Funding:

Financial Provision for Total Scheme	Buildings £'000	Fees £'000	Total Cost £'000
1. From Own Resources			
a) Capital Programme (as above)	3,772	622	4,394
Total	3,772	622	4,394

Main School Works

Building Cost:

Net Cost = £3,446 per m² (New Build Only)

Gross Cost = £2,272 per m²

Cost Per Pupil Place - n/a no additional pupils

Post 16 Unit

Building Cost:

Net Cost = £3,781 per m²

Gross Cost = £2,559 per m²

Cost Per Pupil Place - n/a no additional pupils

i. Furniture & Equipment:

Included in the above figures is an allocation of approximately £73,755 for the provision of all loose furniture, fittings, equipment and I.T. (inclusive of fees).

ii. School Balances:

The school has the following level of balances:

Published revenue balance as at 31 March 2019: £259,781.09

Devolved capital as at 31 March 2019: £32,744.39

Revenue Issues:

iii. Overview of Revenue Implications:

	(a) Employees £'000	(b) Other £'000	(a+b) *Net Current Expenditure £'000	(c) Capital Charges £'000	(a + b + c) Total Net Expenditure £'000
Revenue Implications Additional + / Reductions	0	0	0	242	242

Details of Site and Existing Infrastructure

- 13 St Francis Special school is located off Patchway Drive, adjacent to the A27, in Fareham. It is federated with the adjacent Heathfield Special School which provides education for primary pupils with moderate or severe learning difficulties.

- 14 The school was built in 1977 to accommodate pupils with moderate learning difficulties. It is constructed of load-bearing brick and blockwork under a predominantly mono-pitched tiled roof. Extensions were added in 1999, 2002 and 2014 using complementary materials.
- 15 The existing services infrastructure and access to the site is sufficient to accommodate the project proposals.

Scope of the Project

- 16 The proposed project comprises a four-classroom extension, internal alterations to existing school spaces and improvements to external learning areas and access arrangements.

The Proposed Building

- 17 The proposed replacement classrooms and alterations comprise:
 - Four new classrooms, with associated hygiene rooms and toilets
 - An extension to the main circulation with a small library area
 - Refurbishment of five existing class spaces to become specialist learning spaces and ancillary staff and welfare facilities
 - Major refurbishment of the central circulation space, including a new ramp to improve access
 - A new hygiene room and toilets in the Post-16 building.
- 18 The proposed extension will be of framed construction, finished externally in brick to match the existing, with aluminium windows and doors. The roof will be a mono-pitched, metal roof with the adjoining roof finished with a high performance covering. A timber canopy will be constructed to provide a covered external area to the new extension.

External Works

- 19 The external works comprise:
 - Improvements to pupil play areas, including new surfacing and access ramps
 - Additional fencing to improve safeguarding
 - A replacement covered external ramp to the existing Post-16 building
 - Improvements to staff parking and pupil drop off areas

Planning

- 20 A planning application for these works was submitted in May 2019 with determination anticipated later in summer 2019.

Construction Management

- 21 The school site will remain in use during the construction period and local management arrangements will be put in place to manage the health and safety impact for all school users. Contractors working areas will be segregated from the school users.
- 20 No deliveries or construction vehicle movements will take place at the start or end of the school day, in order to avoid traffic conflict when pupils are arriving at or departing from the school.
- 21 It is proposed that an enabling works contract is carried out during the summer of 2019 to complete the internal alterations to the Post-16 teaching unit.
- 22 Following the enabling works contract, the main works will be procured through the Intermediate Construction Framework and are anticipated to commence during late 2019 and complete during late 2020. The refurbishment to the central circulation space will take place during holiday periods to minimise any disruption to the pupils and staff in the school.

Building Management

- 25 The existing building management arrangements will remain in place.

Professional Resources

Architecture -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Landscape Architecture -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Interior Design -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Mechanical & Electrical -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Structural Engineering -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Cost Management -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Principal Designer -	Culture, Communities & Business Services
Drainage Engineering -	Economy, Transport and Environment

Consultation and Equalities

- 26 A statutory Principle of Enlargement consultation is not required for this project as there is no increase of numbers attending the school is currently planned. However, parents, governors and local residents were invited to an informal drop-in at the school held on 12 March 2019 to review and contribute to the plans. Parents and governors were also included in a site strategy workshop held at the school.
- 27 The following have been consulted during the development of this project. Refer also to Appendix A.

Headteacher
School Governors
Children's Services
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Local County Councillor
Local Residents
Fire Officer
Access Officer
Planning Department

Risk & Impact Issues

Fire Risk Assessment

- 28 With respect to fire safety and property protection, the proposals have been risk assessed in line with the agreed Property Services procedures and confirmed that the provision of sprinklers is not required in this instance.
- 29 The proposals will meet the requirements of the Building Regulations (BB100 Fire Safety in Schools), including enhancements beyond minimum provision, and are consistent with current fire safety legislation, the partnership arrangement with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services, and are in line with the County Council's policy to manage corporate risk.
- 30 The project proposals include the following fire safety features:
- Extension of the existing fire alarm system
 - External finishes specified as fire resistant.

Health and Safety

- 31 Design risk assessments, pre-construction health & safety information and a Health & Safety File will be produced in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations for the proposed scheme.

Climate Change:

- 32 The project will incorporate the following features to reduce energy consumption and mitigate the impact of climate change:
- A highly insulated building envelope for the extension including high performance windows, doors and rooflights
 - Provision of good levels of day lighting to all teaching areas to reduce the need for artificial lighting and energy use.
 - Energy efficient lighting and heating controls
 - Extended roof canopies over large glazed areas to avoid summer-time overheating.

- The use of timber from sustainable sources
- A site waste management plan to ensure the principles of minimising waste are maintained during construction

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Please see below in Appendix B

FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTEES:**OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:**

Executive Member & Portfolio	Reason for Consultation	Date Consulted	Response:
Councillor Patricia Stallard, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People	Portfolio Holder		

OTHER FORMAL CONSULTEES:

Member/ Councillor	Reason for Consultation	Date Consulted	Response:
Councillor Hockley	Local Member for Fareham Titchfield	03/12/18 01/03/19 20/03/19	Cllr Hockley attended the pre-planning consultation drop-in on 20 March 2019.

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Improvements to St Francis Special School

Accountable officer: Claire Campling

Email address: strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk

Department: Children's Services

Date of assessment: 11/06/2019

Description of current service/policy

St Francis Special School provides education for children aged between 2 and 19 years old with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. There are currently 93 pupils on roll.

Hampshire County Council is committed to ensuring that schools provide a quality and accessible learning environment for all pupils – St Francis Special School is in need of significant improvements to better meet the needs of the pupils that now attend the school.

Geographical impact: Fareham, Gosport

Description of proposed change

The County Council is proposing to remodel and refurbish parts of the main school and the Post 16 unit to improve accessibility and provide additional ancillary teaching spaces and hygiene facilities. Four new classrooms will be provided. This project will not increase the number of pupils the school can admit but will significantly improve facilities for the pupils already attending the school.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?

Yes

A non-statutory consultation took place between 28 February and 28 March 2019. A drop-in event where stakeholders were able to discuss the proposal with Hampshire County Council officers was held on the 12 March 2019 between 3pm and 6pm at St Francis School, Fareham. Letters were sent to the following stakeholders:

Headteacher

School Governors

Local Member and District Councillors

Local Residents

Two comments were received, both supportive.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Positive	By providing four new classrooms, appropriate hygiene spaces and improving ancillary facilities and access at St Francis Special School will provide the 2-19 year old pupils with severe learning difficulties and complex needs with a more suitable learning environment tailored to their needs.	
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Neutral		
Religion and belief: Neutral		

Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information