
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 8 October 2008

SUBJECT: Managing Pupil Numbers at the New Swallow Hill Community College from 2009/10

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley, Farnley & Wortley

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in
(Details contained in the Report)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to the Board a solution for managing pupil numbers at the new Swallow Hill Community College when it opens in September 2009. It seeks approval for the capital expenditure for the creation of an annex on the Wortley school site.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The new Swallow Hill Community College is being built through the BSF programme and will accommodate students from the Wortley and West Leeds communities. It is located on the West Leeds High School site. The new school will have an admission limit of 240 and an overall capacity of 1200 11-16 year olds, 150 post-16s and 30 SILC/SEN places.
- 2.2 In September 2009 it is calculated that there will be 1637 11-16 year old pupils on the combined rolls of the present West Leeds and Wortley High Schools, making the initial requirement for additional accommodation of 437 places. Demographic projections suggest that the trend in the additional demand will be:
- 2009/10 437

These projections assume that Farnley Park will fill to its new capacity. The additional accommodation will be required for two years from the opening of the new college.

2010/11	331
2011/12	235
2012/13	117

- 2.3 The approval of the BSF Strategic Business Case in March 2005 identified the decline in demand for secondary places in the area, making three secondary schools unsustainable by the end of the decade. It was proposed to manage this reduction through the merger of two schools (West Leeds and Wortley) and the increase of the third school (Farnley Park) by two forms of entry (FE), to 8FE.
- 2.4 Option appraisals have been undertaken to find the best solution for managing the initial excess of pupil numbers in the new college. The constraints of the new college site, together with a demolition programme in the first year of opening, prevents any extra accommodation being made available within or directly alongside the new building. Therefore, the preferred option is to establish a separate annex to the college in the Wortley High School premises.

3. **MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1 The proposal to establish a temporary annex to the Swallow Hill Community College at Wortley High School raises a number of issues which can be broadly summarised under the following questions:
- What is the organisational model for utilising this accommodation as part of the whole college?
 - What are the resource implications, capital and revenue, of establishing and running the annex?
 - What are the transition requirements?

3.2 **Organisational model**

Both Education Leeds and the Temporary Governing Body (TGB) of the new college have considered a range of organisational models through which to manage the annexed accommodation, support the integration of the two original schools and maintain standards during the transition. The proposal is to locate Year 7 and Year 8 pupils in the annex and develop a comprehensive transition curriculum which could be delivered in the separate accommodation. This has advantages of the younger cohorts being able to move through a phased transition from primary into secondary and towards the 14+ offer, less movement of staff and a self-contained management structure. It means that all pupils from 2009 onwards experience the new college environment for some of their school career and therefore represents a more equitable offer for the two existing pupil communities.

3.3 **Resources**

The procurement of capital works and services will be commissioned through the LEP and ICT strategic partner, RM. The capital costs of retaining and refurbishing a large proportion of the Wortley building have been assessed as between £948,000 and £1,130,851. This includes infrastructure works associated with the new ICT environment, supporting a 1:5 ratio of devices to pupils, full classroom teacher kits (whiteboards, projectors and PCs) and SIMS connectivity with the new college. The

refurbishment specification would upgrade the current environment and make good any current defects in the building but it would not produce an equivalent environment to the new college.

The revenue costs for running the annex for two years will be manageable within the new college's budget. The FM service provision will be delivered through a side contract to the college's main PFI FM agreement and will include catering, cleaning and waste management, grounds maintenance, security and caretaking. The ICT managed service from RM will be additional to the main college site service. These revenue costs can only be met by the college with enhancements to its budget, such as the split site element within the formula.

3.4 Transition

The new principal has been appointed to the college and will start in September 2008. Supported by Education Leeds, the principal has put in place the senior leadership structure for the school, with appointments made by the end of the summer term. This will be an important stabilising factor in taking the transition forward into the new premises and the annex. The work to TUPE transfer non-teaching staff to E4L and RM from the two schools is ongoing; the FM contract for the annex would contribute to the change management of the immediate and longer term demands on these services as the college number in roll stabilises. EL HR staff are supporting the schools through these processes.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 It is proposed to meet the need for temporary additional accommodation at the new Swallow Hill Community College by establishing an annex in the Wortley High School premises from September 2009. This will be required for the two years. There are significant capital costs associated with the proposal. The revenue costs are estimated to be manageable with the projected budget for the new college given the appropriate adjustments to the formula for the college.

4.2 Work has commenced with the temporary governing body, senior leadership teams of the two existing schools and the new head teacher to progress the planning for this solution. There will need to be a carefully developed communications and stakeholder management strategy, with pupils, families and staff, to manage the expectations raised by the delivery of the new school.

5 IMPLICATIONS FOR EL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

5.1 Whilst there is a financial implication to the management of the additional pupil numbers and support required for the school in planning and delivering the solution, these are essentially operational issues and do not have wider implications for policy and governance.

6. LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This report seeks approval in principle from the Executive Board to the strategy to accommodate additional pupils at Swallow Hill and support the funding of this strategy from the Education Capital Programme, with outline costs as indicated in paragraph 3.3. Subject to this approval, a fully detailed scheme will be designed and costed and it is the intention to bring a further report to Executive Board seeking Authority to Spend in due course.

7 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Executive Board is asked to:

- approve in principle the strategy proposed to accommodate the additional pupils numbers; and
- support the expenditure from the education capital programme for the capital costs for establishment of the annex.

Background papers:

Wave 1 Leeds BSF Strategic Business Case 2005