

Allocation of Section (S)106 education contributions towards the costs of improvement works at Adel Primary School

Date: 29 February 2024

Report of: The Sufficiency and Participation Team Lead

Report to: The Head of Learning Systems

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The housing developers of the former DWP site, Otley Road (Bellway Homes Ltd) have paid the Local Authority Section 106 education contributions totalling £291,117.91 to be used “towards the provision of and/or improvement of educational facilities within the administrative area of the Council required as a consequence of the development”.

Adel Primary School (PS) and Adel St John The Baptist C of E Primary School are the two nearest primary schools to the former DWP site, Otley Road development. Adel PS is 0.59 miles (straight line distance) and Adel St John’s is 0.54 miles away.

On roll data from November 2023 shows there are currently 8 children attending Adel PS and 3 children attending Adel St John’s who are living in the development. Due to the close proximity of both schools to the development, it has been decided to split the S106 education contributions equally between the two schools.

Both schools will continue to provide a long-term solution to meet the housing generated demand from this development and it is therefore appropriate for the S106 education contributions to be directed towards meeting the capital cost of improvement works at both schools.

There is no identified need for additional school places in the area nor any appropriate SEN or resource provision schemes to allocate this funding to.

Adel PS has proposed a range of improvement works including refurbishment of the Early Years outdoor area, playground and computer suite (including new computers and iPads). There are also plans to enhance the school’s nature conservation area to make it an accessible teaching space.

At January 2024’s Good Learning Places Board, support was given to allocate £145,558.96 of Section 106 education contributions, paid to the Local Authority by Bellway Homes Ltd, towards the costs of school improvement works at Adel Primary School.

This report seeks final approval to allocate these Section 106 education funds towards the capital costs of improvement works at Adel Primary School.

Recommendations

- a) The Head of Learning Systems grants approval to allocate £145,558.96 of S106 education contributions paid by the housing developers of the former DWP site, Otley Road (Bellway Homes Ltd) towards the costs of school improvement works at Adel Primary School.
- b) The Head of Learning Systems grants approval to inject into the capital programme and authority to spend of up to £145,558.96 of S106 education contributions (reference 13/04008) for school improvement works at Adel Primary School.
- c) Note that at its January 2024 meeting, the Good Learning Places Board supported the use of the former DWP site, Otley Road (Bellway Homes Ltd) S106 education contributions towards the costs of school improvement works at Adel Primary School.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report seeks approval to allocate a total of £145,558.96 of S106 education contributions paid by the housing developers of the former DWP site, Otley Road (Bellway Homes Ltd) towards the costs of school improvement works at Adel Primary School.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The proposed works at Adel PS consist of refurbishing the Early Years outdoor area, playground and computer suite (including purchasing new computers and iPads). There are also plans to enhance the school's nature conservation area to make it an accessible teaching space.
- 3 These works would benefit all pupils attending Adel PS and would contribute to the city's aspiration to be the best council, the best city in which to grow up and a child friendly city.
- 4 The improved school facilities at Adel PS would also contribute towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 5 Providing school places in improved accommodation in an area where demand for places is high will contribute towards the achievement of the Child Friendly City priority of 'We want all children and young people to improve at a faster rate educational progress for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'.
- 6 The school improvement works at Adel PS contribute to the achievement of the Best City Priority to help 'young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work' which in turn, would provide underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy and be a compassionate city.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Adel & Wharfedale

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 Adel & Wharfedale ward members support the proposed allocation of these S106 education contributions.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no resource implications for the Local Authority in relation to the school improvement works at Adel PS.
- 9 The allocation of £145,558.96 towards the costs of school improvement works at Adel PS will help ensure good value for money and is an appropriate use of the contributions in accordance with the terms of the S106 agreement.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 10 The risk of not approving the allocation of S106 contributions paid by the developers towards the costs of the school improvement works at Adel PS is that the school would not be able to continue providing good quality school places in improved accommodation.
- 11 There is a risk, should the spending of this S106 money not be approved, that the funding will not be used within the time period set out in the S106 agreement. If the funding is not allocated prior to the clawback date then the developers could request that the Local Authority return the contributions.

What are the legal implications?

- 12 This is a Significant Operational Decision (SOD) which is not subject to call in and there are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 13 There are no other legal implications.

Options, timescales and measuring success

- 14 The S106 funds should be allocated as soon as possible to ensure the impact the housing development has had on demand for education places is mitigated by improvement works at Adel PS.

What other options were considered?

- 15 The total S106 education contribution from this development is £291,117.91 and will be split across improvement schemes at two eligible schools – Adel PS and Adel St John's. There are no other eligible school expansion or improvement schemes towards which these S106 education contributions could be directed.

Appendices

- 16 None.

Background papers

- 17 None.