

# Design & Cost Report associated with the creation of Resource Provision at Little London Academy for January 2025

Date: 20 November 2024

Report of: Head of Station Development & Projects & Programmes

Report to: Deputy Director of Children & Families

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

The purpose of this report is to seek authority to spend for £840,354.00 from capital scheme 33830/LIT/000 for building works associated with the creation of a 40 place Resource Provision (RP) at Little London Academy from January 2025.

The project consists of utilising surplus space in the main building to create the specialist accommodation required for the RP.

## Recommendations

The Director of Children & Families is recommended to:

- a) Approve authority to spend for £840,354.00 from capital scheme 33830/LIT/000 for building works associated with the creation of a 40 place RP from January 2025.
- b) Note a previous design and cost report for £200k of enabling works was approved on 27 September 2024 and forms part of the overall budget of £840,354.00.
- c) Note the programme dates in section 7 of the report.
- d) Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Station Development and Projects and Programmes.

## **What is this report about?**

- 1 The number of children and young people living in Leeds with an Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) continues to increase each year, resulting in rising demand for specialist provision places across the city. Depending on their specific needs, pupils with EHCPs may attend mainstream or special schools. A resource provision caters for pupils with an EHCP who require a specialist environment within a mainstream school to support their needs. A need for this type of provision has been identified in this area of Leeds both in terms of current and long-term future need.
- 2 The proposal is being brought forward to meet the LA's statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all the children and young people in Leeds. Providing resource provision places in an area where demand is high is an efficient use of resources which should enable more children to access suitable provision within a reasonable travelling distance of where they live. This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best City Ambitions of 'ensuring children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy and friendly childhood' and 'ensuring young people and those changing career in later life have the skills and job opportunities which enable them to realise their potential and thrive'.
- 3 This proposal contributes to the city's ambition to be the best council, the best city in which to grow up and a child friendly city. The delivery of pupil places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a child friendly city.
- 4 This proposal would establish resource provision learning places in a mainstream setting, actively contributing towards achievement of the Child Friendly City aspiration to 'improve educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes.
- 5 A capital project will be required to support the creation of the RP and the specialist accommodation will be delivered through the remodelling and refurbishment of surplus mainstream teaching spaces in the 2015 building due to a reduction in the school's pupil admission number (PAN) from 3FE to 2FE.
- 6 Gorse Academies are self-delivering the project with oversight from the Projects & Programmes team in City Development to ensure it remains within budget and on programme.
- 7 The works need to be completed for January 2025 and an earlier design & cost report was approved for £200k (included in the overall budget of £840,354.00) to carry out enabling works in advance on the main construction period commencing in November.

## **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 8 It will enable children to attend their local primary school and access the additional support required, whilst also attending mainstream education.
- 9 It will allow Children & Families to meet their statutory duty in ensuring every child has a school place.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 10 The proposal contributes to the Best City Ambition to ensure children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood.
- 11 A good quality school place also contributes towards the targets within the Children and Young People's Plan including the to improve achievement, attainment, and attendance at school.
- 12 By helping young people prepare for adulthood through education, this supports to the aim of helping everyone benefit from the economy and achieve their potential.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Little London & Woodhouse

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 13 The Executive Member for Children & Families, the Deputy Director for Children & Families, Assets and Access Team Lead, Gorse Academies and LCC finance have all been briefed on the creation of a resource provision at Little London Academy.

### What are the resource implications?

- 14 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to expend the total amount of £840,354.00 from capital scheme 33830/LIT/000.
- 15 Any additional costs over and above the agreed amount will need to be funded by the academy (as stated in the grant agreement between Leeds City Council and Gorse Academies)
- 16 Capital Funding and cashflow table – **see below for details.**

Previous total Authority to Spend on this scheme	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2022 £000's	FORECAST				
			2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	200.0				200.0		
FURN & EQPT (5)	0.0						
INTERNAL DESIGN FEES (6)							
OTHER FEES / COSTS (7)							
TOTALS	200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200.0	0.0	0.0
Authority to Spend required for this Approval	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2022 £000's	FORECAST				
			2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026 on £000's
LAND (1)	0.0						
CONSTRUCTION (3)	442.3				342.3	100.0	
FURN & EQPT (5)	125.9				50.0	75.9	
INTERNAL DESIGN FEES (6)	42.2				30.2	10.0	
OTHER FEES / COSTS (7)	30.0				15.0	14.9	
TOTALS	640.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	437.5	200.8	0.0
Total overall Funding (As per latest Capital Programme)	TOTAL £000's	TO MARCH 2022 £000's	FORECAST				
			2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026 on £000's
Basic Need Grant	840.3		0.0	0.0	637.5		
Total Funding	840.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	637.5	0.0	0.0
<b>Balance / Shortfall =</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Parent Scheme Number 33830/000/000**

**Title: Basic Need Expansion 2024/2025**

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

17 A joint risk log has been developed with the consultant and contractor to ensure all construction related risks for the project are identified together with the relevant owner of the risk.

### **What are the legal implications?**

18 This is a Key Decision and is therefore subject to call in. However, no concerns were raised during the 28-day period following the publishing of the key decision notice.

19 A grant agreement detailing the available funds and the process for reimbursement will be agreed and entered into by both Leeds City Council and Gorse Academies

### **Options, timescales and measuring success.**

**What other options were considered?**

20 Due to Little London Academy having surplus space to create the RP, this was the most viable solution in terms of value for money.

**How will success be measured?**

21 Success will be measured through delivering the project within the agreed timescales.

**What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

22 This decision needs to be taken at the earliest opportunity to meet the current programme and a completion for January 2025.

23 The Head of the Station Development and Projects and Programmes is responsible for implementation.

**Appendices**

- EDCI

**Background papers**

- None