
**PROPOSED EASTBOURNE ACADEMY -
RELEASE OF FUNDING FOR DEVELOPING ACADEMY PROPOSALS**

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Bill Dixon, Deputy Leader
Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' approval to release funds of £261,000 for developing the academy proposals.

Background

2. Members previously considered a report, on 20th March 2007, on the proposed Eastbourne Church of England Academy development. At this meeting it was resolved that, following appropriate consultation and completion of the Outline Business Case (OBC), the academy be implemented from 1st September 2007.
3. The OBC has been submitted to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) but has not yet been approved. Work is being pursued through other aspects of the feasibility stage.

Information and Analysis

4. Should the OBC be approved the Government will provide funding for a new school. Local authorities are allowed, with approval from PfS, to drawdown a small proportion of the total funding to cover costs associated with developing the project through the feasibility stage. In Darlington the funding is required to cover engagement of consultants, other professionals and associated costs in the following:
 - (a) Ground investigation
 - (b) Site surveys
 - (c) Indicative design work
 - (d) Preparation of legal agreements and documentation
 - (e) Completion of OBC
5. PfS have agreed that the Council can drawdown £261,000, based on initial estimates of these costs, from the total funding package. If any of this funding remains unspent once the development work is completed then PfS require it to be re-invested in the academy project.

Outcome of Consultation

6. No consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Key Decisions

11. This report is a key decision because if PfS and DfES approve implementation of the academy proposals, significant funding for the new build academy would be invested into Darlington.

Recommendation

12. Members are asked to agree to release £261,000, representing funding approved and provided by Partnerships for Schools, to support the development of the academy proposals.

Reason

13. To allow the development of the proposed academy in order to bring educational improvement for the pupils of Eastbourne School from 1st September 2007 and the additional investment this will attract.

Murray Rose
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

No background papers used in the production of this report other than those referred to in the report.

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