

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
16 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	John Gregg, Executive Director for Children and Young People’s Services	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Dennis Jones, Leader of the Council	
Contact Officer(s):	Chris Pike, Principal Development Surveyor	Tel. 07973 929285

DINING ROOM EXTENSION FOR STANGROUND ACADEMY

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Executive Director for Children and Young People’s Services PCC	Deadline date: July 2024
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the dining room extension at Stanground Academy; 2. Agree the project budget as set out in the Exempt Annex to this report. 3. Agree Option 2 as set out in the report 4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children and Young People’s Service to authorise the award of contract for the works, subject to approval from legal, finance and procurement, or allocate funding to the academy trust. 5. Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Children and Young People’s Services in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance to take all necessary steps to give effect to the recommendations, including entering into any necessary legal agreements. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) on 25th June 2024 and Cabinet Policy Forum (CPF) on 2nd July 2024.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed with a dining room extension at Stanground Academy to support the additional pupil numbers due to join the school in September 2024. This report sets out the key background information and approach.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4

To be responsible for budget planning, monitoring and expenditure/savings over £500,000, including Discretionary Rate Relief, with the exception of any time critical, operational, or routine decision, which may be determined by the relevant portfolio holder.

- 2.3 There is an exempt annex attached to this report that is NOT FOR PUBLICATION by reason of paragraph 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains commercially sensitive details relating to the Council and which have been provided confidentially. The public interest test has been applied to the information contained within this exempt annex and it is considered that the need to retain the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing it, as it could prejudice the Council's financial position in any procurement process relating to the works.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state sector. To achieve this, the Council has to keep the number of school places under review and take appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, it must adopt a strategic role, with a duty to promote choice, diversity, and fair access to school provision.

- 4.1 Stanground College was a foundation school that converted to Academy status in 2012 and is run by Greenwood Dale Academies Trust.

The current school building was erected approximately 11 years ago with an agreed roll of 1,800 pupils. To date the academy has never been at capacity however the dining room is considered operationally inadequate for the current 1,408 pupils (April 2024). The unprecedented number of families coming to Peterborough in the last 12-15 months has seen the Council's school place capacity outstripped, particularly in Year 4-9. The Council has approached all secondary schools, and many have responded with the offer of additional places.

Stanground Academy Published Admission Number (PAN) is 240. This is lower than the indicated admission number arising from the net capacity assessment as this school was the catchment school for the village of Yaxley, which changed to Hampton Gardens when that school was opened.

However, we anticipated the school refilling from the Cardea (South Stanground) development.

As the school began to receive more applications it was agreed to return to a PAN of 300. For September 2024, the number of places originally allocated was 300 and has risen again to 325. The Academy expects to increase its total pupil numbers to approximately 1,600 by September 2024.

YEAR	PAN	Number of places offered and occupied	Additional places created
2024/25	240	325	85
2025/26	300	300	60
2026/27	300	300	60
2027/28	300	300	60
2028/29	300	300	60

Over the 5-year life of additional places this equals a total of 325 (minimum)

The current dining hall has a seating capacity for 390 pupils and is not sufficient to cater for the additional intake of pupils. Expanding the dining hall capacity will enable the school to admit more pupils and support the Council duty to provide sufficient school places for Peterborough's children.

The Academy's Free School Meal (FSM) percentage has increased significantly from 24% in Year 11 to 34% in the current Year 7 cohort. There are currently 368 pupils who are entitled to a free meal each day. The Academy anticipate the FSM number increasing with the September 2024 cohort and estimate that this could rise to 450 pupils. This does not include pupils paying for lunch.

The Academy approached the Council about a proposed extension of the dining hall to increase capacity by approximately 250 seats to facilitate a practical catering solution. It will improve the users experience and create additional capacity during breaks, as well as allowing the space to be used during the rest of the school day as additional social or learning facility. The Academy are requesting the dining hall extension in exchange for taking on additional pupils.

The project timescale is approximately 12 months including a 26 week build period. The options for delivery includes either 1) the Council lead and fund the extension or 2) the Council fund and the Academy lead on the extension.

Option 1: The Council lead and fund the extension.

In this option the Council would agree a Licence to build on part of the school site for the dining room extension. The design and build contract would be novated to the Academy at practical completion. The Council would instruct a project team to deliver the works. The Council would procure the professional team and principal contractor in line with the Public Contracts Regulations (2015) (PCR) and successor regulations.

The advantage of this route is that the Council would have better control over the budget, spend and quality of build. However, the Council does not have sufficient in-house resource to carry out the work and this would need outsourcing to a third party thus incurring additional cost.

Option 2: The Council fund and the Academy lead on the extension.

In this option the extension would be delivered by the Academy. A building surveyor would be appointed by the Council to review the scheme design, costing and program at key stages to enable staged funding to be transferred to the Academy.

The Council would enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the Academy, and the Academy would procure the works.

The Academy would need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations (2015) (PCR) and successor regulations, in procuring a professional team and principal contractor.

The advantage of this route is that less resource is required from the Council including Property, Legal and Procurement, although this does come with less control over the budget, spend and quality. This would be mitigated through the appointment of a monitoring building surveyor and agreeing a budget ceiling in advance.

Other: Reducing pupil capacity at the Academy wasn't considered to be a viable option.

Summary:

As the Academy has experience delivering two dining room extensions in other Local Authority areas, Option 2 is considered the most favourable approach on the basis that the Council will have the ability to monitor performance and budget outcomes. The Council do not have the capacity to deliver this project within the next 12 months, and the Academy has demonstrated they have the knowledge and skillset for delivery under a Grant Funding Agreement. Option 2 is considered the Academies preferred route, passes the risk of any overspend onto the Academy and removes the Councils post construction involvement should there be any defects.

The feasibility budget as set out in the Exempt Annex gives assurance that the project can be delivered within budget.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 The recommendation links to achieving the following Corporate Strategy outcomes:

- Prevention, Independence & Resilience: Education and Skills for All
- Economic & Inclusion Growth, Places and Communities.

While this project will have no impact on the Council's carbon emissions due to the land and building lease to Greenwood Trust, the construction of the extension will affect the city's carbon emissions. It is anticipated that there will be a marginal increase in electricity and heating emissions due to the operation of the extended building. Additionally, the project will produce emissions from the construction and disposal of construction materials, contractor travel, and material transportation. However, using local materials will help mitigate the impact.

Currently, the dining room is at capacity. Without the extension, the Academy would struggle to accommodate additional pupils, meaning a number of local children would attend schools further afield. Therefore, the project has the potential to reduce student travel distances and subsequently travel emissions.

CONSULTATION

6.1 Further consultation is required with:

- Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services.
- Councillor Ray Bisby – Ward Councillor
- Councillor Chris Harper – Ward Councillor
- Councillor Brian Rush – Ward Councillor

6.2 This recommendation has been considered by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) on 25th June 2024 and Cabinet Policy Forum (CPF) on 2nd July 2024.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 *The outcomes of approval of the recommendation in the report will be the delegation of the necessary authority to progress, specifically:*

- Expansion of the dining hall to accommodate a greater number of pupils, supporting the Council’s statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, and improve operational requirements for the catering provision at the Academy.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 To enable the Cabinet to approve the recommendation and provide the necessary authority to progress the project and facilitate the dining room extension and the provision of the required school places.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Status quo – ‘do nothing’ – this option was rejected given the number of September 2024 pupil intakes and the known operational issues with the dining room. The Council needs to comply with its statutory requirements to provide school places.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 Budget provision has been made from basic need grant funding and approved for the dining room extension. The basic need grant is provided to create additional school places and the additional dining room capacity is required for the school to increase its pupil admission numbers safely. Therefore, the project meets the requirement of the grant and the needs of the growing city. Refer to Exempt Annex for further detail.

Legal Implications

10.2 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for all children living in its area pursuant to its powers contained in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, section 14 of the Education Act 1996, section 22 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to enable investment in certain educational services and facilities.

The grant funding will be subject to compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Equalities Implications

10.3 Local authorities have a number of statutory duties including securing diversity in the provision of schools, increasing opportunities for parental choices, and ensuring fair access to educational opportunity.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 Equality Act 2010) requires a public authority to have 'due regard' to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to take steps to meet the needs of persons.

The design of the extension must be compliant with all relevant legislation and building regulations to ensure accessibility and use for all.

Carbon Impact Assessment

A Carbon Impact Assessment will be completed and approved prior to any development works commencing on site.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 None

12. APPENDICES (Exempt)

12.1 Appendix 1: EXEMPT INFORMATION