

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CORPORATE DIRECTOR MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

15 September 2020

**Approval to consult – New schools for Knaresborough and Northallerton**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to consult on a proposal that the County Council should establish two new primary schools to serve Knaresborough and Northallerton.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The County Council is minded to establish two new primary schools to maintain school place sufficiency in response to expected housing growth in Knaresborough and Northallerton.
- 2.2 New school sites and accompanying developer contributions have been secured through s.106 agreements. Basic Need Grant will provide the remaining funding in accordance with the allocations made in the 2015-18 Basic Need Programme and any subsequent approvals required. It is intended that the schools will be delivered using the County Council's own arrangements for design, procurement and construction. Planning approval has been secured for both sites and procurement will commence during Autumn 2020. The expected opening date for both schools is September 2022 but this will be kept under review in light of ongoing uncertainty caused by the pandemic.
- 2.3 It is intended the two schools will be free schools in accordance with the DfE free school presumption guidance issued in November 2019. The presumption route contains an expectation that LAs will have undertaken stakeholder consultation prior to commencing the process which seeks to secure an academy sponsor for each school. Although interested parties have already had opportunity to comment on the building proposals (including design and layout) through the town planning process it is considered good practice to consult locally on some of the principles and specifics of the new school proposals. This report seeks approval to undertake that consultation before embarking on the remainder of the presumption route process. If approved, it is intended that consultation would commence on 23 September for 4 weeks.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The County Council is planning to maintain school place sufficiency in Knaresborough and Northallerton through the addition of two new primary schools. These are primarily to serve housing growth through two main sites known locally as

Manse Farm, Knaresborough and North Northallerton. The background to each location and proposal is set out below:

### 3.2 **Manse Farm, Knaresborough**

#### 3.2.1 New housing numbers

Manse Farm is a development of 600 dwellings on which development has started during the past year, initially with some of the required highway infrastructure. Latest indications are that a build trajectory of 80 per year is expected with first occupations in 2021/22. It forms part of c.1400 dwellings which, it is proposed, are to be constructed in Knaresborough in the medium to long-term:

Site name	Expected no. of dwellings	Status
Multiple sites	269	Planning permission granted – sites at various stages
Manse Farm	600	Planning permission granted – under construction
K25 Highfield Farm	402	Local Plan site – planning permission not yet granted
Multiple sites	178	Local Plan sites – planning permission not yet granted

The proposed K25 Highfield Farm development is immediately adjacent to the Manse Farm site. The proposed new school would serve the immediate growth area formed by Manse Farm and K25 Highfield Farm and also support general school place sufficiency in Knaresborough for the medium to long-term.

The effects of the pandemic on the rate of house building and the housing market generally is not yet known. There is therefore potential that having commenced the required process NYCC may subsequently decide that September 2022 ceases to be the desired opening date. The situation will be kept under review.

#### 3.2.2 Site and planning

The site for the school has been secured through a section 106 agreement and the required land transfer is currently being progressed. A planning application for the design and layout was submitted under reference number NY/2019/0215/FUL. Planning permission was granted on 11 June 2020. Having this approval provides confidence that the remaining processes to establish the school can now commence. The design for the Manse Farm school is 2 storey and allows for future expansion should that be required.

### 3.2.3 Existing provision and pupil numbers

Knaresborough and the area around Manse Farm has the following existing provision:

School	Admission no.	Academy Trust
Aspin Park Academy	60	Elevate Multi Academy Trust
Goldsborough CoE Primary School	12	N/A – Voluntary Controlled School
Knaresborough St John's CoE Primary School	50	Elevate Multi Academy Trust
Meadowside Primary Academy	30	Elevate Multi Academy Trust
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	30	Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust

The above schools are collectively close to their operational capacity. The projections taking account of historic and current pupil numbers, underlying demographics and the expected pupil yield from new housing show that a shortfall in places can be expected from September 2022 onwards (Appendix 1). This shortfall of places would continue to rise, largely due to the impacts of new housing, from 2023 onwards without the introduction of additional provision.

## 3.3 North Northallerton

### 3.3.1 New housing numbers

North Northallerton is a total development of 859 dwellings on which development has started leaving 646 dwellings to be completed and occupied. Latest indications are that a build trajectory of 120 dwellings per year is expected. It forms part of c.1380 dwellings which, it is proposed, are to be constructed in Northallerton in the medium to long-term:

Site name	Expected no. of dwellings	Status
Multiple sites	65	Planning permission granted – several small sites at various stages
North Northallerton	646	Planning permission granted – under construction
Multiple sites	671	Local Plan sites – planning permission not yet granted

The proposed new school would serve the immediate growth area formed by the North Northallerton development area, and also support general school place sufficiency in Northallerton for the medium to long-term.

The effects of the pandemic on the rate of house building and the housing market generally is not yet known. There is therefore potential that having commenced the

required process NYCC may subsequently decide that September 2022 ceases to be the desired opening date. The situation will be kept under review.

### 3.3.2 Site and planning

The site for the school has been secured through a section 106 agreement and the required land transfer is currently being progressed. A planning application for the design and layout was submitted under reference number NY/2019/0220/FUL. Planning permission was granted on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Having this approval provides confidence that the remaining processes to establish the school can now commence. The design for the Northallerton is single storey and allows for future expansion should that be required.

### 3.3.3 Existing provision and pupil projections

Northallerton town and the area around the North Northallerton development area has the following existing provision:

School	Admission no.	Academy Trust
Alverton Primary	30	N/A Community School
Applegarth Primary	40	N/A Community School
Brompton Community Primary	30	N/A Community School
Broomfield	30	N/A Community School
Mill Hill Community Primary	30	N/A Community School
Romanby Primary	40	N/A Community School
Sacred Heart RC Primary	15	St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust

The above schools are collectively close to their operational capacity. Pressure on places is being seen especially in the younger age groups. The projections taking account of historic and current pupil numbers, underlying demographics and the expected pupil yield from new housing show that a shortfall in places can be expected from September 2022 onwards (Appendix 2). This shortfall of places would continue to rise, largely due to the impacts of new housing, from 2023 onwards without the introduction of additional provision.

## 4.0 Financial implications

4.1 The 2015-18 Basic Need Programme contains capital budget allocations of £5m for Knaresborough (including £2.002m from s.106) and £2.5m for Northallerton (including £950k from s.106). The reason for the notable difference is that North Northallerton was on a slower trajectory at the time that the Programme was approved by Executive in July 2108. The actual cost of delivery for each site will be determined by the required procurement exercise which will commence in Autumn 2020. Any required budget adjustments would be subject to the normal internal approval process. The overall Basic Need Programme carries uncommitted sums, or

sums committed to schemes that are now on a slower trajectory, either of which could be re-prioritised as required.

4.2 Local authorities are also required to meet the revenue costs of the new provision. This relates to:

- the per-pupil revenue funding (which the ESFA recoups from the local authority and pays directly to the school)
- all funding for pre-opening development costs and post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale as the school builds up to capacity. Further detail will be provided in the report that will follow the initial consultation and prior to publication of the specifications for each school.

## 5.0 Consultation

5.1 If approved, consultation would be for 4 weeks and expected to run between 23 September and 21 October via the NYCC website and supported by media releases. Stakeholders including the schools listed in section 3 above, the Diocesan authorities, local elected Members, Town Councils and relevant academy trusts will be consulted directly. Draft consultation documents will be presented at the meeting on 15 September and the following principles and proposals will be the subject of the consultation:

	<b>Knaresborough</b>	<b>Northallerton</b>
School type	Mainstream primary	Mainstream primary
Age range	3-11 Nursery to Year 6	4-11 Reception to Year 6
Published admission number	30	30
Size / Capacity	210 places plus nursery	210 places
Opening date	September 2022 – proposed date as explained in section 3	September 2022 – proposed date as explained in section 3
Opening profile	<p>First year of operation: Nursery and Reception only</p> <p>Second year: Nursery, Reception and Year 1</p> <p>Adding a further year group for the third year of operation and beyond until full opening is achieved</p>	<p>First year of operation: Reception only</p> <p>Second year: Reception and Year 1</p> <p>Adding a further year group for the third year of operation and beyond until full opening is achieved</p>

Admission arrangements	<p>Oversubscription criteria to be determined by the chosen Academy Trust.</p> <p>NYCC intend to propose that a defined catchment area will be proposed for the area covered by the Manse Farm and Highfield Farm developments.</p> <p>Further detail and rationale will be provided in the consultation document specifically covering the Knaresborough proposal.</p>	<p>Oversubscription criteria to be determined by the chosen Academy Trust.</p> <p>NYCC intend to propose that the new Northallerton School will not have a defined catchment area. Instead priority for admission to the School would be determined by proximity to it.</p> <p>Further detail and rationale will be provided in the consultation document specifically covering the Northallerton proposal.</p>
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It is proposed that responses to the consultation would be presented to CYPS Executive Members on 3 November 2020. Responses would inform the specifications which would then be used to seek applications from academy trusts who may wish to become the sponsor for the new schools.

## 6.0 PROCESS AND TIMESCALE

6.1 The following indicative timetable sets out the process to be followed which would lead to recommendations on the proposed sponsors being made to the Regional Schools Commissioner:

<b>LA Consultation stage</b>	
15 September	Approval to consult
23 September – 21 October	Consultation period
3 November	Approval to commence Presumption Route process
<b>Stage 1 – Invitation for Proposals</b>	
20 November 2020	Launch of process: National and local announcements using DfE and NYCC websites
22 January 2021	Deadline for receipt of proposals
<b>Stage 2 – Assessment</b>	
w/c 1 February 2021	Assessment of proposals and selection of preferred proposers (shortlist)
w/c 15 / 22 February 2021	Assessment Panel Interviews
9 March 2021	Recommendation to CYPS Executive Members and confirmation of preferred sponsor.

17 March 2021	Proposals are sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the North of England
<b>Stage 3 - Decision by Regional Schools Commissioner (for the Secretary of State)</b>	The RSC will consider the LA assessments and recommendations and decide which proposer is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC will inform the LA and the successful proposer of the decision and the LA will inform unsuccessful proposers. There is no specified timescale for this part of the process.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that approval be given to consult on a proposal that the County Council should establish two new primary schools to serve Knaresborough and Northallerton.

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE.

Report prepared by Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager

Action Agreed .....Executive Member  
Date: 15 September 2020

Action Requested .....Corporate Director  
Date: 15 September 2020

Appendix 1 – Illustration of pupil projections and capacity for Knaresborough  
Appendix 2 – Illustration of pupil projections and capacity for Northallerton

Knareborough and Goldsborough pupil projections





