

REPORT FOR

DECISION OF:	Cabinet
DATE:	26th February 2020
SUBJECT:	Radcliffe – Secondary School Provision Lease of land off Spring Lane, Radcliffe
REPORT FROM:	Cabinet Member for Children & Families
CONTACT OFFICER:	Paul Cooke, Strategic Lead (Education Services)
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET (KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>Cabinet received a report on the 13th November 2019 in which it agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse the submission by Star Academies of an application to the Department of Education for funding for a new secondary school for Radcliffe 2. Note that a successful application to establish a Free School will require the Council to provide the land on which the new school will be constructed, to be leased to the Sponsor at a peppercorn rent, and that a further report will be submitted to Cabinet to seek this approval 3. Require the Assistant Director (Education & Inclusion) to lead the process of engagement with Star Academies in support of the application and submit a further report to Cabinet as soon as the outcome of the application is known <p>This report responds to point 2 above.</p> <p>The Free School application has now been submitted by Star Academies, and is under consideration by the Department for Education. The outcome from the</p>

	<p>site. Any future financial implications will need to be considered at the appropriate time as part of the budget setting process. It is anticipated that any capital costs of the pupil referral unit will need to be met from within the schools capital budget. The leisure provision will need to be considered in the context of the council's revenue and capital budgets. Until the outcome of the reviews are known, the financial impact cannot be fully assessed.</p>
Equality/Diversity implications:	<p>There are none directly arising from the decision before Cabinet.</p> <p>The report of the 13th November 2019 set out the implications in relation to the establishment of a new school.</p> <p>Section 9 of the Academies Act 2010, and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 require the local authority to assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision and also impact on any groups with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The report documents the significant inequalities in the education, health and economic profile of the residents of Radcliffe.</p> <p>The provision of a high quality secondary school will contribute to measures designed to address these inequalities.</p> <p>The new school will help to minimize travel distances to school, improve accessibility to local school provision, and increase parental choice.</p> <p>The new school is not expected to have an adverse impact on any group with protected characteristics.</p>
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	<p>The legal provisions are set out in the report. Further legal input will be provided on the lease and any arrangements necessary to comply with the legislation, should the application be successful through the Free School Programme.</p>
Wards Affected:	Radcliffe North, West & East
Scrutiny Interest:	

JH

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Joint Executive Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet report of the 13th November, set out the context for the need to establish new secondary school provision in Radcliffe.
- 1.2 An application has been submitted to the Department for Education by Star Academies, seeking approval to establish a Free School to be located in Radcliffe.
- 1.3 This application has been submitted with the support of the Council, with Officers providing significant input to strengthen the Star Academies submission.
- 1.4 In submitting an application for a Free School, the applicant must identify the preferred site on which the new school will be located. The Council has promoted the use of the former secondary school site on Spring Lane, as the preferred location.
- 1.5 The Academies Act 2010 sets out the arrangements in respect of land to be used for the purpose of a new school. If the land is in the ownership of the Council, the Council is required to enter into a lease with the sponsor of the new school, granting use of the land for a 125 year period in return for a peppercorn rent.
- 1.6 In considering the Free School application submitted by Star Academies, the Department for Education is seeking confirmation that the Council is supportive of the application, and will enter into an appropriate lease arrangement in respect of the site.
- 1.7 Whilst Officers are able to respond positively, it would clearly strengthen the Department's view of the application if there was an absolute commitment from the Council to the release of the site.
- 1.8 To remove any potential impediment to the Department for Education's consideration of the application, Cabinet is requested to confirm that the Council will enter into a Lease with Star Academies in the event of a successful application.
- 1.9 In confirming its support, it is acknowledged that there is existing activity on the site comprising the Spring Lane School and Radcliffe Leisure Centre. Officers are exploring all options to understand the impact on these users, and any measures to mitigate this impact.

A high level feasibility study of the site has determined the ability to locate the secondary school, whilst also accommodating the needs of the Pupil Referral Unit (Spring Lane School) and/or the leisure centre. Other sites for the PRU are being explored as an alternative to its location on Spring Lane. A detailed analysis of leisure provision is being undertaken to determine future requirements, and to confirm if provision needs to be made on the Spring Lane site. These matters will be subject to separate reports to Cabinet

- 1.10 Further, a development site contained within the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework identifies potential access to that site through part of the Spring Lane site. In granting a lease for the Spring Lane site, the Council will need to safeguard this access route in the event that it is required.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 The demand for secondary school places across the borough is growing, and will continue to grow as a result of short, medium and longer term housing development. In the short term, demand from new housing is likely to be felt most acutely in Radcliffe where there is currently no dedicated secondary school provision. Education, health and economic data suggests that the population of Radcliffe is disadvantaged as a result of this lack of provision.
- 2.2 The Council is committed to addressing this inequity and to explore options to enable the establishment of high quality secondary school provision to serve the community of Radcliffe. At its meeting on the 13th November 2019, Cabinet agreed to endorse the application to establish a Free School, submitted to the Department for Education, by Star Academies. It also noted the requirement to grant a lease in respect of the Spring Lane site to the free school sponsor, in the event of a successful application.
- 2.3 The Department for Education has sought confirmation from the Council that, in the event of a successful application, it will commit to the lease of the land to the sponsor at a peppercorn rent.
- 2.4 Cabinet is requested to confirm its support to the release of the land, edged red on the plan at Appendix One.

Appendices

Appendix One - Site plan – Spring Lane, Radcliffe

List of Background Papers:-

Cabinet report – Radcliffe – Secondary School Provision – 13th November 2019

Contact Details:-

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