

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 07 September 2022
Subject:	Relocation of Pupil Referral Unit (Spring Lane School) - Part A	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In order to facilitate the delivery of the new secondary school in Radcliffe, there is a requirement to provide the Department for Education (DfE) with vacant possession of the Spring Lane site.
- 1.2 As a consequence, it is necessary for the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (Spring Lane School) to vacate its current premises in order to accommodate the construction of the new secondary school on the Spring Lane site.
- 1.3 The need for the relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) has been referenced to Cabinet in a number of reports relating to the establishment of the new secondary school, with a commitment to present a report detailing the proposed arrangements for that relocation, once plans had been developed.
- 1.4 This report sets out those proposed plans for relocation and seeks approval of the financial arrangements to deliver those plans.
- 1.5 The target date for vacating the Spring Lane site to enable construction of the new secondary school to proceed is summer 2023.
- 1.6 There is therefore an urgency in implementing proposals to enable the PRU to relocate in this timescale.
- 1.7 Discussions with the Senior Leadership Team of the PRU have been ongoing for some time to identify the school's current and future accommodation needs.
- 1.8 However, since those discussions began the Government has published its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Green paper, which makes reference to future planning for arrangements for pupils that potentially impact on the role and operation of the PRU.
- 1.9 In addition, and again since initial discussions began, the Governing Body of the PRU has resolved to join Oak Learning Partnership Multi Academy Trust.

- 1.10 These factors provide an opportunity to align specialist provision in the longer term for the benefit of children and young people with Social and Emotional Mental Health needs (SEMH). However, it is likely to be 2025 before these plans to align activity can be achieved.
- 1.11 Given the need to vacate the Spring Lane site by summer 2023, there is a need to develop an interim solution, but that can then respond to a longer-term strategy for the development of future specialist provision.
- 1.12 Following an initial option appraisal of a number of sites commissioned by the Council's Property Team in summer 2021, Spurr House (former short-term respite adult care centre) in Unsworth was identified as a preferred option for the relocation of Spring Lane School. The building does however require substantial redesign and refurbishment to accommodate the needs of the PRU.
- 1.13 The Council has appointed professional consultants to provide Project Management and Quantity Surveying/Cost Management services in respect of the relocation project.
- 1.14 A RIBA Stage 1 appraisal has been undertaken in order to establish a high-level brief, programme, cost and key risks and constraints in order to inform budget setting and decision making on next steps for the scheme.
- 1.15 Design Team meetings have been undertaken between the Council, consultants and the school leadership team and a RIBA Stage 2 report has been commissioned which provides the Council with detailed designs and updated costs. A copy of this report is included as an appendix to Part B.
- 1.16 Recognising that the longer-term delivery model for the PRU will change, the adaptations and improvements proposed for the Spurr House building will enable the PRU to make use of it from 2023, and from 2025 to meet future needs as part of the Council's continuum of specialist educational provision.
- 1.17 This enables the Spring Lane site to be vacated within the required timeframe. A longer-term solution will then be developed with the Oak Learning Partnership to meet future needs of the PRU.
- 1.18 The Council continues to see significant additional demand for places in specialist educational provision. The number of children and young people being assessed as having special educational needs continues to grow, and the Council is reviewing its sufficiency strategy for specialist provision to demonstrate how it will respond, and meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient places to meet local need.
- 1.19 Spurr House will be a key part of this strategy, initially accommodating the needs of the Pupil Referral Unit until 2025, and thereafter, providing specialist provision for primary age pupils as a satellite to an existing school.
- 1.20 The capital costs for the adaptation and improvements to the building are set out in Part B of this report.

- 1.21 These capital costs are contained within the Council's agreed Children's Services Schools Capital Programme for 2022/23.
- 1.22 Cabinet is asked in the Part B report to approve the capital costs as set out in Part B to this report, to be met from the Children's Services Schools Capital programme.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- Approve the transfer of Spurr House from Adult Care to Children and Young People within the Council's estate management arrangements

Reasons for recommendation(s)

- To unlock the delivery of a new secondary school for Radcliffe.
- Utilise a Council owned vacant building for re-development.
- To enable the project to develop new specialist educational provision to progress.

Alternative options considered and rejected

In order to deliver the new school in Radcliffe, the Council is required to confirm that it will commit to meet certain obligations, including providing DFE with vacant possession of the Spring Lane site by an agreed date, to facilitate the construction of the new secondary school in Radcliffe.

Failure to provide such commitments will prevent the new school in Radcliffe scheme from progressing.

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Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The relocation of Spring Lane School is essential to facilitate the provision of the new school in Radcliffe. This will support key ambitions of the Let's do it strategy:

- A better future for the children of the borough
- A better quality of life

An initial feasibility study into options available to facilitate the re-location identified two viable solutions, including the provision of a modular build solution on a site adjacent to Park House, Chesham, which is part of the Pupil Referral Unit; and the development of the Spurr House building.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

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.

The business case that supported the application for the new school documented the significant inequalities in the education, health and economic profile of the residents of Radcliffe.

The provision of a high-quality secondary school will contribute to measures designed to address these inequalities.

The new school will help to minimize travel distances to school, improve accessibility to local school provision, and increase parental choice.

The new school is not expected to have an adverse impact on any group with protected characteristics.

The EIA produced in relation to the original business case for the school is included with the background papers.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Working with the professional consultants, the Council will seek to ensure that throughout the design and delivery of the scheme, and the longer-term use of the building, that there is a clear commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of new provision.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
<p>Failure to agree the funding to meet the Council's financial obligations will impact on the timely delivery of the project</p> <p>The full extent of capital costs falling to the Council will not be known until more detailed design and planning has been completed</p>	<p>The recommendations set out in this report respond to these risks in seeking approval to capital funding, as set out in Part B, to enable the project to proceed.</p>

Legal Implications:

Members are asked to note the Radcliffe School items also on the agenda for this meeting. If Members are minded to agree to this proposal work will be carried out to ensure that formalised legal arrangements are put in place to oversee the proposed project works proposed and relevant occupational leases in order to protect the Council's interests.

Financial Implications:

Approving the transfer of Spurr House from Adult Social Care to Children and Young People within the Council's estate management arrangements has no financial implication with this being an internal management arrangement.

Background papers:

New High School for Radcliffe. Long Leasehold to Star Academy Trust – 18th November 2021.

Radcliffe – Establishment of a new secondary school – Report to Cabinet 24th March 2021. [Radcliffe Establishment of a new secondary school.pdf \(bury.gov.uk\)](#)

Radcliffe – Secondary School Provision Lease of land off Spring Lane, Radcliffe - Report to Cabinet 26th February 2020. [FINAL 2020-02-26 Cabinet Report Radcliffe School final.pdf \(bury.gov.uk\)](#)

Radcliffe – Secondary School Provision – Report to Cabinet 13th November 2019. [2019-11-13 Cabinet Report Radcliffe School.pdf \(bury.gov.uk\)](#)

Equality Impact Assessment 2022 - [Radcliffe School - EIA statement 2020.docx](#)

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
Pupil Referral Unit	Pupil referral units (PRUs) teach children who aren't able to attend school and may not otherwise receive suitable education.
RIBA stages	The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Plan of Work organises the process of briefing, designing, delivering, maintaining, operating and using a building into eight stages.