

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	13 June 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2438
TITLE:	Radstock Nursery Accommodation	
WARD:	Radstock Ward	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Equality Impact Assessment		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The conversion of Trinity VC Primary School, Radstock, to an academy in September 2011 required as part of the transfer agreement, separation of the Children's Centre/Nursery accommodation from the body of the school for independent running of the nursery and children centre activities. It is now proposed to carry out necessary separation works only, and also to provide an extra a purpose built nursery unit on Education land in Radstock to meet additional demand for early years services in Radstock and future proof against the 2013 statutory requirements to provide free nursery places for 2 year olds.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that

2.1 Capital budget of £486k is approved for inclusion in the 2012/13 Capital programme to allow the necessary works to be undertaken.

2.2 The project will cost £486k in 2012/13 and will be funded using part of the £2.255m Schools Capital Maintenance Grant 2011/12, which has been carried forward to 2012/13 in the budget report for provisional approval. As the project will be fully grant funded there are no revenue impacts on the Council

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The schemes capital cost is fully funded from Education capital maintenance grant and no borrowing or revenue funding is required. The revenue costs for the service is budgeted for through general services budgets (early intervention grant) and the service lead, Sara Willis, has set aside resources for this purpose

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of places to meet the universal early years entitlement of 3 & 4 years olds and provide sufficient flexible daycare to meet the needs of working and studying parents (2006 Childcare Act). This project will enable that duty to be met and increases opportunities for the local community to access childcare to enable parents to access employment, learning and skills training.

From September 2013 the early years entitlement duty will be extended further to include 2 year old children based upon their families economic circumstances which will ultimately see up to 40% or more of children in anyone area entitled to a place, depending on the economic profile of the area

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The agreement contained in the Academy conversion lease plans for separation of the Radstock Nursery (Children Centre) from the Academy of Trinity and to extend the provision to deliver expanded children centre services including day care for babies. The extension was required as the original accommodation was inadequate to enable full delivery of all children centre services as the initial provision had been developed to provide 3-4 year nursery care with signposting to children centre services only, including those provided off site. Separation works have had to be delayed for a year pending the completion of remedial works to replace the roof at Academy of Trinity (same issue as St Nicholas Primary School). During this time full consideration of plans resulted in a proposal to carry out necessary works to separate only the Radstock Nursery Children Centre accommodation from that of Academy of Trinity, and to provide separate purpose built accommodation on an Education site in Radstock. The separate accommodation will allow 2-3 year old statutory provision and expanded baby care provision which would be complementary to existing services already on the site. This proposal enables the LA to meet all its current statutory needs, future-proof against forthcoming statutory requirements and enable flexibility of expanding to meet local needs.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. The significant risk is the programme, in particular planning and steps are being taken to mitigate and/or reduce. Other risks are being treated.

7 EQUALITIES

b) An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 The Sure Start capital grant requires 3-4 hours of childcare daily to be made available which is to be concentrated in Radstock Nursery accommodation on Woodborough Lane which can easily accommodate this without incurring costs of extra building on an already constrained site and much reduces disruption to all users. Provision of 2-3 yr old and baby day care in a separate purpose built facility will better meet current demand and be flexible for growth in numbers or future changes to childcare provision and complement existing provision in Radstock.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Other locations in the Radstock area have been considered and investigated but were either unsuitable, unavailable within the time scale or not in the councils ownership.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 *Cabinet members; Other B&NES Services; Service Users;*

10.2 Briefing by PYP Strategic Director and Early Years Manager of Executive Member.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 *Social Inclusion; Young People; Corporate;*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Nathan Hartley
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	