

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 11th April 2011

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WARD(S): ALL

PORTFOLIO: Education – Cllr Pantelic
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PART I

NON-KEY DECISION

Future Provision at Haymill - Need for Additional SEN Places and Planning for the Future of Haybrook College

1 Purpose of Report

To report to Members on an anticipated pressure for special school places at Haybrook College from September 2011 and to present options for increasing the School's capacity. Having regard to the condition of the Haybrook College buildings, the future needs of the School and the potential to regenerate the site, to also report to Members on the options for the future location of Haybrook College.

2 Recommendation

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that:

- a) For a temporary period of 12 months, additional rooms, currently available in the Haymill building are rented to Haybrook College to create the capacity required for September 2011;

or

- b) Should the existing capacity of Haybrook College be exceeded, out-of-Borough placements be sought,

and

- c) A costed options appraisal be prepared on future options for the location of Haybrook College and for the future use of the Haymill site.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Prosperity for All**

- 3.1 Haybrook College will be expanded either on the Haymill site or elsewhere to meet the future demand for places to ensure every Slough pupil requiring a place is offered one. Haybrook College is currently based across a number of different sites offering a range of tailored specialist provisions for pupils with severe and complex behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Through strong and effective leadership and management this provision has continued to be rated by Ofsted as

'outstanding' over the last five years. As the population expands so will the number requiring this specialist provision, any expansion plans will ensure it is still able to offer the same high standards. This provision is pivotal across secondary education in providing a successful inclusive approach where Slough has one of the lowest levels of exclusions nationally.

3.2 Haybrook College comprises two key facilities, a Special School and a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU):

- The Special School is known as Millside and provides places exclusively for secondary age pupils with statements of Special Education Needs (SEN) for Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD). This includes pupils who have experienced severe difficulties in mainstream schools, often resulting in permanent exclusion, because of their complex needs. A number are also looked after (LAC) by Slough Borough Council.
- Haybrook College provides Slough's PRU service on behalf of the Local Authority, this is alternative education for students who have been excluded, are at serious risk of exclusion, or who have excluded themselves from mainstream education. Some students have significant mental health issues and some have statements of special educational needs. Pupils often end up at Haybrook College as a last resort, after placements at a number of other schools even other special schools have been unsuccessful.

3.3 Slough's policy is to seek local, inclusive solutions to placing children, this reduces the need for overnight stays, allows pupils to remain with their peer group and minimises costs.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

4.1 Immediate Need for Additional Places

4.2 Current figures indicate that up to 5 additional statemented children aged 11-14 will require a place at Haybrook College (special school) from September 2011. As the school is currently at full capacity either new places will need to be created on the Haymill site or the pupils will need to be placed in establishments out of the Borough. The estimated cost per pupil for out-of-Borough placements is between £60K and £100K per annum. Once a pupil is placed in an out-of-Borough facility they are likely to remain there until they are 16 or 17.

4.3 **The full cost of any placements would be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**, the affect of out-Borough placements is to reduce the level of funding available for delegation to Slough schools. The table below compares the costs of a statemented pupil attending a Slough school and an out-of-borough facility including the additional transport costs. Any additional transport costs would create a pressure for Children's Services.

	Funded by DSG	Funded directly by LA
	Placement cost per annum	Average transport cost per annum
Out-of-Borough placement	£60-£100K	£12K
Placement in a Slough school	£32K	£4K

4.4 The shortfall of places, the cost per place and transport costs for each pupil are an estimate at this stage, figures won't be known until placements are confirmed in

September. Even then, pupil movement (mobility) may increase or decrease the availability of places across Slough schools.

(b) Risk Management

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Risk/Threat/Opportunity</i>	<i>Mitigation(s)</i>
<i>From section 2 above</i>	<i>Risk – 5 statemented children are placed out-of-Borough at a cost of at least £300K per annum each</i>	<i>Expand Haybrook College either on the site or identify an alternative site in Slough</i>
	<i>Risk – Additional placements are required during 2011-12</i>	<i>Create more than 5 new places</i>
	<i>Risk – Any redevelopment or relocation proposal for expanding the school involves more than a year to develop</i>	<i>Develop an interim measure to accommodate the additional pupils expected this September</i>

c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Local authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education at school (including pupil referral units), or otherwise than at school, for children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, will not receive a suitable education without those arrangements. Suitable education is defined as efficient education suitable to the age, ability, aptitude and to any special educational needs.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Not required at this stage.

(e) Workforce

If any additional staff are required then the school would be responsible for arranging and funding them.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 There is an immediate need to identify additional special school places for September 2011; the only suitable facility in Slough for admitting these pupils is Haybrook College. The School is currently at full capacity therefore additional accommodation will be required on the site if the School is to admit the additional pupils.
- 5.2 If Haybrook College are able to make use of the Haymill building for providing additional special school places than there is likely to be the need for some minor refurbishment and reconfiguration of spaces.
- 5.3 Funding for these works would be grant income of up to £292K already available on the General Fund Capital Programme and earmarked for Haybrook College.
- 5.4 There are 2 main options for creating the additional places required for September 2011 without incurring unnecessary expenditure to secure temporary arrangement. The table below presents the main points for consideration with each option:

Option	Main reasons for:	Main reasons against:
School rents additional rooms in the Haymill building	Minimal capital cost Rooms are currently available Provides opportunity to prepare options appraisal for the long term future of the site	Short term solution only Unclear if the building would fully meet the needs of Millside Special School
Local Authority funds placements out of the Borough	No new accommodation required in Slough	Additional cost of £0.6m-£1.4m revenue funded via DSG over 4 years Further places may be required Not in line with Local Authority's policy on placements

- 5.5 If additional accommodation within the Haymill building is sub-leased to Haybrook College by Community and Wellbeing, then the associated rental costs would be borne by the School, this would include the full cost of utilities, cleaning and any other associated costs.
- 5.6 Haybrook College have yet to confirm that expanding further into the Haymill building is a fully workable solution for creating the special school places for September. This stems from the need to keep some physical separation between special school pupils and PRU pupils. Members will be updated on the overall suitability of the proposal at Cabinet.
- 5.7 **Future Location of Haybrook College and the use of the Haymill Site**
- 5.8 Haybrook College currently occupies a range of buildings on the Haymill site including a large proportion of the Haymill Community Centre building as a sub-lease from Community and Wellbeing. The layout of the site is shown in Appendix A.
- 5.9 The Haymill Community Centre building has been identified as a building at the end of its useful life and in need of either major investment or replacement. For example, it is known that the utilities in the building are in poor condition, difficult and expensive to maintain and the heating system is expensive to operate. The building has a flat roof which is in poor condition and the mainly concrete structure has very poor thermal efficiency.
- 5.10 Any proposals for adding new accommodation on the site therefore needs to first consider the long term future for the site. Options for the site fall into 3 main categories:
- i. Release the full site for possible disposal - Relocate Haybrook College (both the special school and PRU) to an alternative site in Slough and find alternative venues for the other users of the Haymill building.
 - ii. Release part of the site for possible disposal – Retain the former Joan Lestor building, sports hall and some surrounding play space to house either the special school or the PRU service and relocate the other half of the school. Find alternative venues for the other users of the Haymill building.
 - iii. Retain the full site for Haybrook College and community use – Haybrook College is expanded on the site to increase capacity to meet the rising demand. This

might include adding modular classrooms or renting additional rooms in the Haymill building.

- 5.11 The total Haymill site is 2.55 Ha (6.3 Ac). 1.3 Ha (3.2 Ac) of the site transferred to Slough Borough Council as a Category 2 surplus property from Berkshire County Council in 1998 and the remaining 1.25 Ha (3.1 Ac) is owned by Slough Borough Council. The effect of this split ownership is that if Slough were to sell the Category 2 land then the proceeds would need to be divided between the 6 separate Berkshire Councils. This would likely mean a relatively small income to Slough of circa £400,000 for this part of the site. However if this part of the site were to continue to be used for an operational purpose e.g. education or developed for social housing this would not be the case, as a disposal would not be deemed to have taken place.
- 5.12 For the unrestricted part of the site, any capital receipt would be retained by Slough. If this site was granted outline planning permission for housing then the provisional estimate for the value of the land if sold is £4m.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

None.

7 **Conclusion**

Members are requested to consider the options and agree the way forward. Members are also requested to approve that a costed options appraisal is prepared for the future use of the Haymill site and for providing a long term solution for locating Haybrook College.

8 **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Plan of the Haymill site showing ownership boundaries and existing buildings.

9 **Background Papers**

None.