

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PROVISION OF SIXTH FORM ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ISLE OF AXHOLME

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The council has seven modular buildings that are expected to become surplus to requirements in late 2013. Thereafter, these buildings are available for alternative use. Due to their nature, this is limited practically for educational purposes.
- 1.2 Relocating the buildings to an alternative site and retaining them at their existing location will incur some capital costs.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A number of relocatable modular buildings were purchased as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. They are used to provide accommodation for teaching while construction works are in progress. Wherever possible, this accommodation has been reused within the BSF programme. Some modular buildings were relocated from Brumby Engineering College to the St Lawrence Academy in 2011. By late 2013 these modular buildings should become available for alternative use.
- 2.2 The South Axholme Academy plan to open a Sixth Form. This will necessitate providing additional accommodation. The St Lawrence Academy have expressed an interest in retaining some of the relocatable modular buildings.
- 2.3 No alternative use for the relocatable modular buildings is known to the council that fits the timescale required.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are two options for making use of the buildings in question after they are no longer required in support of delivering the BSF programme. The options are set out below:

3.1.1 **Option 1** - Retain some of the modular buildings on the St Lawrence Academy site for use by the school following completion of the BSF programme and relocate and reuse other modular buildings that are no longer required as part of the BSF programme from the St Lawrence Academy for reuse as accommodation for a Sixth Form at South Axholme Academy.

3.1.2 **Option 2** – Dispose of the modular buildings.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1** provides a commercially and environmentally sustainable future for all of the modular accommodation. Reuse of the modular buildings at South Axholme Academy will enable the Sixth Form to become quickly established within the expected lifespan of the buildings. The nature of the modular accommodation will place a slightly higher revenue burden upon the St Lawrence Academy and South Axholme Academy in respect of operating costs. Both Academies have confirmed that they are willing to fund these operating costs.

4.2 **Option 2** will provide minimal benefit. The buildings have by their nature a low inherent open market value. Demolition would incur costs and have a negative environmental impact. The opportunity for reusing the buildings to raise the attainment and participation levels of young people in the area would be lost.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 The estimated cost to relocate and reuse the modular buildings at South Axholme Academy as set out in option 1 amounts to £434,000. There is no current provision for this within the councils current budget planning. In addition to this, South Axholme Academy will fund associated fit out and play area works that amount to around £110,000. Option 1 will also require funding of around £10,000 to alter infrastructure serving the modular buildings at the St Lawrence Academy. In first instance, funding should be sought from the relevant schools to enable the works to proceed. Alternatively the works should be funded from the people directorate capital budget allocation.

5.2 The respective academy will staff and operate the modular buildings once relocated.

5.3 The relocation and reuse of the modular buildings will provide a practical and relatively low cost solution to an accommodation need for the Sixth Form at South Axholme Academy.

5.4 The relocated modular buildings would be connected to the existing IT provision at South Axholme Academy and those that remain would be connected to the existing IT provision at the St Lawrence Academy.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 The respective academy will take on all responsibilities for any strategic and operational risks associated with the use of the relocated buildings.
- 6.2 The relocated buildings will ensure the Sixth Form accommodation provides inclusive provision. This will help in ensuring that pupils and staff with disabilities and some special needs can make full use of the Sixth Form without restriction.
- 6.3 The relocation of the buildings to South Axholme Academy will reduce the distance pupils need to travel to attend their place of learning. As part of the relocation, the buildings will also be upgraded to meet current environmental standards as required by the Building Regulations. Both these factors will reduce carbon emissions.
- 6.4 The council is legally able to provide support of the nature set out in option 1 to an academy
- 6.5 There are no crime and disorder or other implications associated with any of the options.
- 6.6 There are some education sector implications associated with the proposal for South Axholme Academy to open a Sixth Form. These are summarised below:
- The South Axholme Academy Sixth Form proposal would increase choice and diversity in the locality.
 - The range and reach of post-16 provision needs developing to provide opportunity for all young people in North Lincolnshire - the South Axholme Academy Sixth Form proposal has the potential to increase opportunity for young people in North Lincolnshire.
 - Immediate benefits for South Axholme Academy associated with their Sixth Form proposal positive impact on teaching and smoother transition for students into post-16 learning and the presence of a Sixth Form can be a major incentive for parents when choosing a secondary school.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 South Axholme Academy has undertaken extensive consultations. The outcomes broadly support their proposals for a Sixth Form.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member considers the options for re-using the modular buildings that are no longer required at The St Lawrence Academy as part of the BSF programme and identifies an option for implementation.

- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member identifies a budget to support any relocation and reuse of the modular buildings, as referenced in paragraph 5.1.

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Date: 22 February 2013

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None