

Proposal for the site of the former Orrishmere Primary School, Cheadle Hulme

Report of the Director of Education Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides an update on proposals for the future use of the site of the former Orrishmere Primary School, Cheadle Hulme.

2.0 INFORMATION

2.1 Since the site of the former Orrishmere Primary School was taken out of use Officers have reported regularly that no firm decision has been made over the future use of the site. Whilst this remains true at this time the following is provided for clarification.

Over the past couple of years the site has been considered for additional space for primary school Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children who have not been able to access places at Lisburne SEND Primary School. However, in the event the Council invested in changes to Hollywood Park Nursery to accommodate these pupils.

Following this there was consideration of the possibility of residential development but no firm plans were laid before the site was again considered as a site for a possible rebuild of the Lisburne SEND Primary School. The site did not appear to be large enough for this development and at that point the Council did not have a funding envelope for such a scheme.

Early in 2018 the site was offered to the Laurus Trust as a possible site for their Alternative Provision Secondary Free School. Staff from the trust and from ESFA (DfE) toured the building with Stephen Bell, Head of Commissioning School Places. During the tour Officers became concerned as to the deterioration of the building and this was subsequently taken up with the Council's property arm.

The Laurus Trust eventually rejected the site as not being central enough to Stockport for their needs. At this point Officers commissioned a pre-demolition study and subsequently commissioned the demolition of the old school buildings. This was hoped to take place in Spring 2019, however consultations with the Place Directorate and Planning are needed to check that this action would not change the site designation. Planning Consent for this action will be needed. Officers will update on this as and when they can.

Also in May 2018 the Council established a funding envelope for a rebuild of Lisburne SEND Primary School and the Orrishmere site was again considered for this building project. By June it was clear that the site was too small for the proposed larger Lisburne SEND Primary School.

Finally in October 2018 the Council made an Expression of Interest (EoI) to the Department for Education (DfE) over a possible secondary SEND free school. If the EoI is viewed favourably by the DfE then a full bid would be invited in Spring 2019. The

Orrishmere site has been suggested as a possible site for this development but this is not and cannot be a firm decision at this point. The EoI is currently being evaluated by the ESFA / DfE and a technical assessment officer visited the site on DfE's behalf on 10th December 2018.

2.2 Should there be an invitation to make a full free school bid then the site will need a fuller consideration and a Council decision before it is offered as a site for the proposed secondary SEND school.

If there is no invitation to make a full free school bid then Officers will again have to reconsider what the site could be used for.

Therefore despite several times considering the issue, Officers have not yet established a purpose for the site. However as outlined it is currently being held as a possible site for a Free Secondary SEND School.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Stephen Bell on telephone number 0161 474 3846 or alternatively email: stephen.bell@stockport.gov.uk