

Urgent Cabinet Report/Delegated Decision Form

Report/Decision Title	Provision of funding contribution to enable Laurence Jackson Academy to develop capacity to accommodate a temporary increase in pupil place pressure
Date of request	16.1.2023
Date of meeting/decision	DA to be completed ASAP

Urgent – General Exception - Reasons for urgency outlined below

While discussions have been ongoing with the Academy Trust over the potential need to provide additional pupil capacity to cater for an ‘anticipated’ peak in need for places, the detail of the required physical works and cost, and ability for the school to manage the temporary increase have now been agreed following confirmation of places identified as needed in September 2023. The decision to approve funding needs to be made urgently so that the Trust can place orders with the selected construction company.

I confirm that the relevant chair of Scrutiny and Improvement Committee (or if there is not chair, the whole committee individually) and the Cabinet Member have been informed by notice in writing of the decision to be taken.					
Officer name (Delegated Power Author)	Ian Dunn	Officer Signature		Date	16.1.2023
Assistant Director Name	Sue Beevers (Deputy for Clare Mahoney)	Assistant Director signature		Date	16.1.2023

This urgent report/decision has been seen and agreed by the following:

Officer / Member

Signature

Managing Director

Section 151 Officer

Monitoring Officer

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Are the details of the decision to be public or confidential?

Public

If the details of the decision are confidential, please select the category for exemption under the Local Government Act 1972

Choose an item.

Reference	CF-23-004
Corporate Plan Priority	Meeting Residents' Needs
Delegation Title	Provision of funding contribution to enable Laurence Jackson Academy to develop capacity to accommodate a temporary increase in pupil place pressure
Delegated Power Number	81 – Agree and implement financial transfers between the Council and external bodies
Date of Exercise	12/01/2023
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alison Barnes
Assistant Director	Clare Mahoney

Type of Decision (Key/Executive/Non-Executive) See Scheme of Delegation to Officers – Council Constitution	Key - Executive
FOR KEY DECISIONS ONLY	
Delegated Power Forward Plan Ref	If a key decision has not been published in the forward plan at least 28 days in advance of the decision being taken, then the urgency or special urgency rules must be applied, and relevant forms completed in conjunction with Democratic Services
Delegated Power Forward Plan Ref	N/A
Date Decision Published in Forward Plan	Click or tap to enter a date. To be completed by Democratic Services
Urgency (For Key Decisions not included in Forward Plan only)	Urgent - General Exception - Forms Attached

Background to Decision:

The Council has a duty to ensure sufficiency of pupil places to meet demand and promote fair access to education. In undertaking these duties. It undertakes a programme of pupil place monitoring and securing financial contributions from developers and the Department for Education to undertake required works. In addition, the Council also administers the school

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admissions process on behalf of its own maintained schools and Academy Trusts, including administering in year transfer requests.

Officers have been monitoring pressure on places, in particular secondary places where there are some localised issues as a peak of older primary age pupils move up to secondary school in 2021 to 2023 admission years. In the Guisborough area, there is a particular pressure on places for Year 7 in 2023 year of entry.

Laurence Jackson Academy is a popular school that operates close to capacity for most of the existing year groups. In order to ease the pressure on places and to help accommodate demand for places in the 2023 year of entry, it is proposed to grant aid the school with Department for Education grant allocated to the Council to undertake works that will enable a temporary increase to the schools pupil admission number for this next intake only.

Decision Considerations:

The works required involve the construction of a purpose designed and built dining block that will help ease one of the main pressures the school has identified to enable this temporary expansion. The school have identified sufficient general teaching capacity within the building to enable the It is proposed temporary increase in numbers. The dining block has been specified so as to be able to offer dual use, such as exam space, break out space etc when not in dining use.

The school has a current Pupil Admission Number of 250. This will not change, but the works will enable an additional class of 28 to be admitted in 2023 and remain in the school for the following 5 years. The general capacity, teaching and other facilities do not allow this increase to extended beyond 2023, though the pressure is not expected to be as great in the following years.

Enabling the additional places will help accommodate parental preference noting a bulge year of pupils in the towns primary schools moving up to secondary in 2023. Failure to allocate additional places would reduce the ability to meet place demand in the town and across the Borough. The places will also potentially help avoid a number of appeals as well as potential costs for home to school transport for pupils that meet the criteria who are not able to be offered a place within the statutory distance zone.

Full details of decision:

To enter into a grant funding agreement with Vision Academy Trust, for Laurence Jackson Academy to enable the development of facilities help accommodate additional temporary pupil places for a maximum grant sum of £500,000.

Financial detail:

Grant funding of a maximum of £500,000 is to be made available from the Basic Need grant allocation, which is a Department for Education grant to the Council. The project is in line with the grant criteria and planning agreement conditions respectively

Total project costs are expected to be in the order of £700,000. The Trust will fund £200,000.

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<p>Delivering Social Value:</p> <p>The project will provide further capacity and quality or provision to support parents and pupils within the Borough identified as being in need of places that will be made available and enhanced. Obligations will be passed on to the recipient over securing best value.</p>	
<p>Reasons for Decision:</p> <p>To enable the development of additional floorspace to help develop places to deal with area specific pupil place pressures.</p>	
<p>Details of alternative options considered (if any) and reasons for rejection:</p> <p>None deliverable at this time.</p> <p>Officers are constantly reviewing potential opportunities to create appropriate provision with partner providers, from which this provision has been developed.</p>	
<p>Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Elected Member consulted in relation to the decision:</p> <p>This must be left blank. Business Support will seek this information from the Cabinet Member.</p>	
<p>Details of any dispensation granted in respect of any conflict of interest:</p> <p>This must be left blank. Business Support will seek this information from the Cabinet Member.</p>	
<p>Background Papers:</p> <p>State where any additional papers may be held, any background information (if applicable)</p>	
Officer Name (Print)	Ian Dunn
Officer Signature	
Submission date	16.1.2023
Procurement Approval	<p>N/A</p> <p>This must be the electronic signature of the Procurement Officer to confirm the decision complies with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules</p>

Reference	CF-23-004
Delegated Power Forward Plan Reference	

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Assistant Director	Claire Mahoney

Signatures

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	Date 18/01/2023
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Call-In (Key Decisions Only)

Choose an item.

Reasons for dis-applying Call-In due to urgency to be added here if relevant. This will need to be reported to the next meeting of the Borough Council and the reasons must demonstrate that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

Date Decision will become effective	03/02/23 To be completed by Democratic Services – date will be not less than expiry of 5 working days from publication unless urgency applies.
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