



EXECUTIVE 17th August 2023

Report Title	Great Doddington Primary School Mobile Replacement
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Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Members with the necessary information to consider and approve the capital project of mobile replacement at Great Doddington Primary School.
- 1.1. To advise members that the costs will be funded by the Basic Needs Grant.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report will provide details to allow Members to consider the information and decide on the proposal.
- 2.2. The report provides the details relating to North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) statutory obligation of providing appropriate learning facilities and

spaces for pupils and staff - a safe environment conducive to teaching and learning.

2.3. The report also sets out the benefits of progression of this proposal, the cost of the works to establish the new extension.

2.4. Finally, the report will set out the risks should the proposal not be accepted.

3. Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approve the proposed Capital Project to replace the double mobile classroom with permanent classrooms which will return an area of the playground back to the school.
- b) Note the scheme will be funded by Basic Needs Grant funding.
- c) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families and Education in consultation with Executive Director of Children's Services, and the Executive Director of Place and Economy, to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to ensure effective delivery of the scheme.

3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:

- The current double classroom mobile on site has reached the end of its design life.
- The Council has a statutory obligation to provide school buildings that are safe and fit for purpose and conducive to teaching and learning. If the Council cannot provide safe school buildings in its maintained provision in North Northants, then it could be subject to health and safety breaches.

3.3. Alternative Options Considered:

- Option 1: Replace the mobile with a similar sized building in the same location. This was dismissed as the loss of facilities during construction would present too many issues.
- Option 2: Build a new block at the front of the school. There is space and the layout works except for one aspect. To gain access you must walk externally or through another Classroom 27 which is not ideal. Inserting a Corridor through Classroom 27 makes a room deficient in the required floor area.

- Option 3: Construct a replacement at the top of the site on playground area and link back to the main building. The lost playground would be regained in the mobile location. This is the preferred option.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. Great Doddington Primary School is a two-form entry village Primary School (Pupil Admission Number = 140). There are currently six classrooms available to the school, however they currently run five mixed-aged classes.
- 4.2. The existing double classroom mobile is in poor condition, the roof leaks and the cladding is beyond repair. The unit has reached the end of its design life. This, coupled with the fact the temporary Planning Approval elapsed in 2012, suggests the mobile should be removed from the site in the very near future.
- 4.3. The council undertook a structural survey to establish the appropriate course of action and to identify the costs.
- 4.4. The project will be a school managed scheme with the Council acting as a funding body only.
- 4.5. The funding approval sought is £996,300; including 30% client-side contingency.
- 4.6. It is estimated that the construction programme for the proposed works will be completed by September 2024.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. This proposal relates directly to the Council's statutory obligations in respect of the providing safe and fit for purpose school buildings in North Northamptonshire. Taking no action represents a clear and immediate risk to the Council's statutory obligations.
- 5.2. Of the options presented in this report, Option 3 is recommended as the most cost-effective solution to provide a permanent solution.
- 5.3. The proposal will assist the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations of providing safe and fit for purpose school buildings.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. If approved the Funding Agreement will be finalised and the school will start the procurement process.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. The project is to replace the existing aging mobile with the same facilities. The existing mobile consists of 2 Classrooms / a Group Room, Storage and Toilets / Cloaks.
- 7.1.2. The Scheme is being funded by Basic Needs Grant funding, which is already approved and forms part of the Approved Capital Programme.
- 7.1.3. The school and consultant design team have a proven track record of delivering projects on budget and on time. It is proposed that the works will be project managed by the school and their appointed Design Team and the Council will act as the funding body only.
- 7.1.4. Any works progressed will be governed by a legally binding funding agreement between each party, that restricts the Council's maximum financial liability in respect of this scheme.
- 7.1.5. The market is experiencing considerable volatility currently, and we are recommending mitigating the impact of this volatility on tender prices by including 30% client-side contingency on all Education Capital Projects.
- 7.1.6. The sum up to a maximum of £996,300 (including the project Contingent Sum of 30%) or any part thereof to be paid to the recipient in accordance with The Legal Funding Agreement. Payments will be made against an agreed milestone payment schedule.
- 7.1.7. A Business Case has been developed following a Feasibility Study which demonstrates that this proposal is necessary to ensure that the aging mobile is removed and replaced with a permanent solution.
- 7.1.8. The school will benefit from the return of the playground when the defunct mobile is used.
- 7.1.9. The Estimated Delivery Schedule is showing the project being completed in February 2024.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 Under school place planning duties (s13-14 Education Act 1996), the Council as an education authority has a statutory duty to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. It also has a general duty to secure sufficient schools in their area.
- 7.2.2 Local authorities must provide appropriate maintenance of the existing school estate and it provides an opportunity to meet our statutory responsibilities to provide sufficiency of school places in North Northamptonshire.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 These proposals will assist the Council in meeting its commitments in the long term by providing better, brighter futures: We will care for our young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish as well as safe and thriving places to live and learn, work and visit.

7.4. Risk

Risk(s) Associated with delivering the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Costs higher than available budget due to Market Volatility	30% Client Side has been included in the project costs to mitigate against the potential market fluctuations resulting in funding gaps and overcommitment of the Capital Programme.	Amber
Works undertaken impact on day-to-day school operation	Works to be planned in conjunction with schools and programmed to minimise impact.	Green

Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
NNC has a statutory obligation in respect of the providing safe and fit for purpose school buildings in North Northamptonshire. Taking no action represents a clear and immediate risk to the Council's statutory obligations.	Red

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1 Consultation on the new building would be through the planning system so members of the public would be consulted as part of this process.

7.5.2 Ward Members have been consulted as part of the business case process.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This report has not been considered by the Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 The report is eligible for call in by the Scrutiny Commission.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1 An equality assessment form has been completed and confirms no negative impact.

7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1 This proposal will lead to improvements of schools allocated from the above funding.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 This scheme will have no direct Crime and Disorder Impact.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None