

## **Cabinet – 18 March 2020**

### **Goldsmith Revocation - School Place Planning and Expansions**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Towe: Education and Skills

**Related Portfolios:**

**Service:** Children's Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Aim**

- 1.1 This report sets out the statutory process that has been undertaken and seeks Cabinet approval to determine the revocation proposals.

#### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 On 11 December 2019 Cabinet approved the commencement of a statutory process to revoke the decision to expand Goldsmith Academy as a result of changes of circumstances that would make the implementation of the proposal inappropriate at the present time, and the projected lack of need for the pupil places.

This report sets out the statutory process that has been undertaken and seeks Cabinet approval to determine the revocation proposals.

- 2.2 Goldsmith Academy was judged by Ofsted as Require Improvement in January 2019. The Department for Education (DfE) has advised that in order to expand a school they should be in either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted categories

#### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve that the proposal to expand Goldsmith Academy be revoked

#### **4. Report detail - know**

##### ***Context***

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for resident children who want a school place. A local authority has a general duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that there are available, in its area, sufficient schools ' in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education'.

- 4.2 On 20 March 2019 Cabinet approved the expansion of a number of primary schools, including Goldsmith Academy for September 2021.

***Council Corporate Plan priorities***

5. Ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of children who need one supports the Council's corporate priority to ensure children have the best start, and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.

***Risk management***

6. The proposed revocation of the expansion at Goldsmith Academy as a result of changes of circumstances that would make the implementation of the proposal inappropriate at the present time.

***Financial implications***

7. As no works had being undertaken there were no abortive costs and therefore no financial losses.

***Legal implications***

8. There is a statutory process to follow when a Local Authority cannot implement an approved school expansion proposal because circumstances have changed so that the implementation would be inappropriate. This prescribed process, set out in the DfE's statutory guidance Making 'prescribed alterations ' to Maintained Schools (April 2016) requires the Council to publish a revocation proposal, to be determined by the Authority, to be relieved of the duty to implement.

***Procurement Implications/Social Value***

9. None directly arising from this report

***Property implications***

10. None directly arising from this report

***Health and wellbeing implications***

11. None directly arising from this report

***Staffing implications***

12. None directly arising from this report

***Reducing Inequalities***

13. It is of crucial importance to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives that young people of Walsall are able to access the right provision to meet their needs in order to achieve appropriate qualifications, progressing to employment and / or training and make a positive contribution within the borough in the future.

## **Consultation**

14. In accordance with this guidance a statutory process to revoke expansions at Goldsmith Academy commenced on Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 24 January 2020 12pm (Representation Period). During this time we have been in regular communication with the school to ensure they were fully informed.

14.1 The statutory process closed on Friday 24 January 2020 at 12 noon, no formal response forms or emails were received about the proposed revocation.

## **15 Decide**

Cabinet approves the revocation to expand Goldsmith Academy.

## **16. Respond**

To formally revoke the decision to expand Goldsmith Academy.

## **17. Review**

To continue to annually monitor school places as part of the Department of Education (DfE) School Capacity Survey, to ensure there are sufficient places of a good standard for all children in Walsall.

## **Background papers**

DfE	Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools (2016)
Cabinet:	December 2019


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February 2020



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