

4 July 2018

ITEM: 4

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Delivering our Free School Programme – Land Disposal

Wards and communities affected:

All

Key Decision:

Key

Report of: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Place and Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children’s Services

Accountable Assistant Director: Michele Lucas, Interim Assistant Director Learning and Skills, Detlev Munster, Assistant Director of Property

Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Place and Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children’s Services

This report is Public

Executive Summary

This report includes the attached Cabinet report relating to the sale of land for a Free School.

The Cabinet report seeks to gain the approval for the disposal of Council owned property at Elm Road Open Space to the ESFA in order to deliver the current free schools programme, and ensure there are enough places to meet growing demand.

Members of the committee are asked to note and comment on the report.

1. Recommendations:

1.1 That Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the attached Delivering our Free School Programme – Land Disposal report (Appendix 1).

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that suitable and sufficient school places are available in Thurrock for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one. However, local authorities are limited by statute and cannot provide new schools.

2.2 Thurrock Council received notification of the success of several Free School applications, “Wave 12”, which was confirmed by letter to the Corporate Director of Children’s Services on 12 April 2017. Two of those schools, Orsett Health Academy and Treetops Special Free School, were considered by Cabinet in June.

2.3 The attached report considers:

2.3.1 Thames Park - 6FE, 900 place secondary school. The new school would be part of the Osborne Trust.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 As set out in attached report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Members of the committee are asked to note and comment on the contents of the attached report which will then be considered by Cabinet.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 As set out in attached report.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 As set out in attached report.

7. Implications:

7.1 Financial

As set out in attached report.

7.2 Legal

As set out in attached report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

As set out in attached report.

8 Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None.

9 Appendices to the report

9.1 Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report: Delivering our Free Schools Programme – Land Disposal

Report Author:

Detlev Munster, Assistant Director of Property and Development