

File Note

Subject: **MMU Didsbury – Education Provision**

Date: **18th July 2014**

Location: **Town Hall, Manchester**

Present: **Patricia Bowen**
Phil Wright

MCC
MCC
DTZ
DTZ

Apologies:

Agenda Topic

MCC are currently in the process of determining their strategic education plan for the next 5-10 years, so a firm proposal for a primary school on the former Broomhurst Halls of Residence site is timely and welcomed.

In terms of priority, further school capacity in Didsbury is not top of MCC's strategic planning list; however, in circa 2 years it will be, so progressing the school in outline is considered to be an appropriate response and strategy.

MCC are currently preparing a report to go to the DfE in terms of funding assistance and priorities. MCC are to consider including the Broomhurst Halls of Residence site within this report, because even if it is not successful (considered unlikely) it provides further evidence of the need for a new Primary School in Didsbury for the purposes of the planning application.

MCC confirmed they would be able to pull together the necessary evidence and information that will demonstrate the direct need for a Primary School in Didsbury. Initial information can be sent across fairly quickly, followed up with a fully considered evidence base.

MCC's basic needs funding has already been spent and any additional funding of this nature will be committed to expansion of school's across the city that are immediate priorities. MCC consider therefore that the primary school in Didsbury is likely to be a Free School. A comparable scenario has just been confirmed in the NE.

MCC has a real challenge finding land for new build schools, and when aligned with the fact that MMU are proposing to gift the land to MCC, it was considered that this would represent best value for the public purse.

MCC consider that the school will be a 2 form entry Primary School, and suggested that having sketch layouts and design illustrations important in the context of its sensitive location and political advocacy.

Agenda Topic

They suggested that the starting point would be DfE/EFA baseline two form Primary School design template that could be downloaded from the internet. Consequently, the Design and Access will be important in defining the fundamental design principles and quality benchmark that will be followed through into the RM application.

It was queried whether flexibility for expansion would be required to be built in to the design. This depended on the confirmed catchment area.

Playing field provision and location was discussed, with MCC confirming that there is no set formula anymore, with the only criteria being to provide as much as possible. It was considered on balance that use of the Simon Playing Field would be required to provide such provision, leaving greater scope on the former Student Accommodation site for drop-off/car parking and vehicular circulation.

The new Primary School is currently considered to be an extension to an existing school.

The position on secondary school provision was raised and MCC will come back to DTZ on this point.

Close Meeting
