

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 29th November 2012

ITEM 10

Title: Response to
Council motion: Studio
Schools

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Lilly

Report from Directorate: Children, Young People and Learning

Report Author: Jean Griffiths, Head of Schools, Learning and Skills (Tel: (0191) 643 8782)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

As a result of a Council motion on 25 October 2012 Council requested that a report be submitted to full Council detailing the proposals for a Studio School currently being considered. It was requested that the report should include:

- a. the details of the working groups and those that have been directly involved with the preparation and drafting of the submission report;
- b. what reports have been commissioned as part of the considerations of any working Group;
- c. the details of any impact assessment undertaken and their findings;
- d. detailed information on the risk assessments undertaken;
- e. the connectivity of the Learning Village Phase Two and the Studio School and are they one and the same or are they two different schemes.

The purpose of this report is to fully update the Council on all of the above points.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council

- (1) Note the approach to exploring proposals for a Studio School.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This item does not appear on the current Forward Plan but is submitted in compliance with the motion agreed by full Council at its meeting of 25th October 2012.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the Council Strategic Plan 2012–2015 Priority 2: Maintaining excellent education, training and employment.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

At its meeting of 25 October 2012 full Council agreed the following motion:

“That this Council requests that the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Learning produces a detailed report on the proposals for a Studio School currently being considered within the organisation of the Council. Council would like the report to come back to the next Full Council meeting and the report should include:-

1. The details of the working groups and those that have been directly involved with the preparation and drafting of the submission report.
2. What reports have been commissioned as part of the considerations of any working Group.
3. The details of any impact assessment undertaken and their findings.
4. Detailed information on the risk assessments undertaken.
5. The connectivity of the Learning Village Phase Two and the Studio School and are they one and the same or are they two different schemes.”

1.5.2 At its meeting held on 10th September 2012, Cabinet agreed a set of recommendations concerning further development work relating to the second phase of the Learning Village development of the River Tyne North Bank.

Cabinet agreed in principle to explore the opportunities to establish a Studio School, research and development space including a Fabrication Laboratory ('Fab Lab'), incubator space for micro businesses and move-on accommodation for small and medium sized businesses.

1.5.3 A study undertaken in March 2012, commissioned to make recommendations as to what Phase 2 of the Learning Village should include, concluded that whilst there was not a need to locate a major training campus on the Swans site relating to intermediate and technical skills there is a need to develop a centre of excellence which would:

- i) Inspire children and young people to follow learning pathways in emerging sectors in the local economy including the sub sea and marine engineering sectors;
- ii) Develop a curriculum model which actively engages employers in providing quality work experience and apprenticeship programmes in a industry setting and in preparing specialised pathways into Higher Education;
- iii) Provide a research and development facility to support business - led project work, innovation and entrepreneurial skills and project- based learning amongst young people;
- iv) A facility that provides business incubation space for small and medium sized businesses allowing them to integrate into new emerging supply chains within the enterprise zone.

- 1.5.4 The Department for Education (DfE) published new guidance in July 2012 inviting applications (by January 2013, for prospective September 2013 opening) to establish Studio Schools that will provide high quality, aspirational, education for 14-19 years olds using project-based learning to deliver mainstream qualifications, develop students' employability skills and prepare them for work, or further or higher education.

Studio Schools are all-ability and mixed gender state funded schools which are independent of local authorities. They are a new model of educational provision, delivering mainstream qualifications through practical project-based learning. Studio Schools are new Academies which are expected to be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community.

1.5.5 Current position

At its meeting of 10th September, Cabinet authorised officers to submit external funding proposals to the ERDF for the research and development facility in the business incubation proposals. This bid recently received Stage One approval on 5th October 2012. A full business case is currently being developed to follow the proposal to Stage Two.

The arrangements to deliver investment on the site will provide the opportunity to deliver the aspects of a fab lab, studio school and incubator space.

- 1.5.6 An effective curriculum which can be accessed by young people aged 14 – 19 in North Tyneside is essential if the needs of the emerging sectors are to be met. Any potential solutions for a centre of excellence need to take account of key elements of provision which are:

- a. Academic excellence: young people of all abilities need to achieve a high level of performance in English, maths and science.
- b. Employability and enterprise skills: the curriculum should provide a sharp focus on all aspects of employability including work experience, apprenticeship offers and internships as part of an entitlement.
- c. Facility for outreach: any emerging facility will need to provide curriculum opportunities for all children and young people in North Tyneside through the creation of a hub and spoke model from which other schools can benefit.
- d. Professional development for teachers: expertise gained by teachers working in this facility will provide valuable opportunities for professional development for their colleagues.

- 1.5.7 The proposed facility will make a significant contribution to the development of the Learning Village phase two. The Learning Village will provide the central hub for a hub and spoke model in North Tyneside that provides clear educational and vocational routeways into employment opportunities, particularly those created on the RTNB. The facility will focus on supporting the development of engineering and other advanced manufacturing businesses but could also support other growth sectors such as creative industries, particularly film and television which have made significant use of the former Swan Hunter buildings since they were acquired by the Council.

- 1.5.8 With regard to the establishment of working groups, initial research was carried out and preliminary discussions were held with learning providers, including Head Teachers, and the North Tyneside Learning Trust (NTLT). Following these discussions it is not currently proposed to submit an application to the Department of Education for a Studio School for

2013. Reasons for this initial decision included the comparatively small number of students currently in the system, the uncertain extent of the impact of Kings Priory and the lack of any additional funding from the DfE to support the development of the studio school. In addition other opportunities are being appraised with respect to creating an education and skills facility including the development of a shared facility delivered as a partnership between schools and Tyne Metropolitan College under the umbrella of the NTLT.

1.5.9 A report recommending the way forward will be submitted to Cabinet in early 2013. Views of the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee are to be sought as part of the appraisal process.

1.6 Decision options:

There are no decision options as this report is provided in response to Council's motion requesting further information as detailed earlier in the report.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

There is no recommended option.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jean Griffiths, Head of Schools, Learning and Skills, tel. 0191 643 8782.
Anthony Gollings, Financial Business Manager for CYP&L and Finance & Resources, tel 0191 643 8071

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

(1) Report to Cabinet 10th September 2012, River Tyne North Bank – Learning Village

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Any relevant financial implications arising from the proposals would be identified in the subsequent report to Cabinet referred to at 1.5.9.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report. Any relevant legal implications arising from the proposals would be identified in the subsequent report to Cabinet referred to at 1.5.9.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with relevant officers within Children, Young People and Learning and with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Head Teachers and the North Tyneside Learning Trust are have been consulted in relation to the proposals.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Currently the proposals are not yet at an appropriate stage of development for impact assessments to be undertaken. Full implications will be provided in the subsequent report to Cabinet.

2.6 Risk management

Currently the proposals are not yet at an appropriate stage of development for risk assessment to be undertaken. Full implications will be provided in the subsequent report to Cabinet.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime or disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment or sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships