

**Name of meeting and date:**  
**CABINET – 11<sup>TH</sup> May 2010**

**Title of report:**  
**NETHERHALL LEARNING CAMPUS – CREATION OF A CREATIVE & MEDIA STUDIO SCHOOL**

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes / No or “not applicable”          If yes give reason why</b>  <b>Yes, grant expenditure in excess of £250k and this would develop a studio school facility for the Kirklees area.</b>
<b>Is it eligible for “call in” by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Cabinet member portfolio</b>	<b>Directorate for Children and Young People          Cllr Ken Smith          Cllr Cath Harris</b>

**Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted:**

**Dalton Ward – Cllrs R Battye, P McBride and R Parchment.**

**Public or private: PUBLIC**

## **1.0 Purpose of report**

To seek member approval for the development of a Studio School in Kirklees

## **2.0 Summary**

The creation of a studio school is an excellent opportunity to develop new approaches to connecting business with education. Capital Grant Funding (£4.0m) from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) will be used to create a bespoke space which will help up-skill young people who can then contribute more readily in the local economy. The scheme development has been supported by a range of stakeholders, including various levels of involvement from creative companies (work with studio school learners, host company, user of facilities/services, offering work placements). Students will leave the studio school work-ready with an ability to positively contribute to the community.

**The key elements of the proposal as set out in section 3 below:**

- 3.1 – Background Information on Studio School**
- 3.2 – Scheme Design**
- 3.3 – Change of age range for Netherhall**
- 3.4 – Admissions**
- 3.5 – Risk Management**

### **3.0 Key Elements of the Proposal.**

#### **3.1 Background Information on Studio School**

3.1.1 The Studio School concept was first initiated by the Young Foundation in 2006 as an innovative approach to the delivery of 14-19 education for up to 300 learners. A Studio School is built around a strong working partnership between school(s) and a range of industrial / commercial partners. There is an emphasis on a new approach to delivering the curriculum, although Studio Schools cannot bypass or ignore National Curriculum requirements.

3.1.2 The Government announced in November 2009 support for a series of studio schools across the country. The first two will be in Luton and Kirklees and a further five schools have been approved; in Blackpool, Oldham, South Tyneside, Lambeth and Newham. Each of these schemes is taking a different approach to developing the studio school concept.

3.1.3 With the local development of the Creative and Media sector, a result of the Creative Town Initiative, and the potential links with the Media Centre, Huddersfield University and the Textile Centre of Excellence it was considered appropriate to take forward the Creative and Media sector focus as one that clearly had potential to flourish in Kirklees.

3.1.4 The involvement of employers and creative/media businesses in Kirklees in the development of the Kirklees Studio School is a major strength of the proposal. For over two years a group of local employers, business organisations, and other partners have been meeting regularly, planning for the interim pilot (launched in September 2008) and developing the proposal for the full-fledged Studio School in Kirklees. The Kirklees studio school model was developed with the support of these partners:

- Kirklees Council Children and Young People (Learning), Culture & Leisure, Regeneration and Economic Development Services
- Netherhall Learning Campus
- The Media Centre
- University of Huddersfield
- Kirklees College
- Textile Centre of Excellence
- Compact Education Business Services
- The Young Foundation (now the Studio Schools Trust)
- Employers Group, MDs of six Creative & Media businesses
- Barry Sheerman MP and local Councillors.

The partners believe strongly that the Kirklees Studio School would make a real difference to the lives of young people, families and employers across Kirklees and would play an important role in raising aspiration and equipping young people with the skills and experience they need to succeed.

3.1.5 The Studio School will offer a range of key academic and vocational qualifications with the Creative & Media Diploma at Level 2 with progression to Level 3 being at the heart of the school's curriculum offer.

3.1.6 The learning will be more relevant and contextualised, with a greater focus on local businesses and the skills needed by young people. This will allow students to develop important employability skills like teamwork, initiative and critical thinking, whilst also gaining the key qualifications they need to progress. The Studio School will offer much more than simply putting business and learning side by side. The School will actively go out and look for creative and media projects/campaigns that can be delivered jointly by the students &

businesses relevant to 14-19 learners. This will generate income that can be used to pay students and re-invest in facilities.

- 3.1.7 The involvement of employers is a critical ingredient to the success of the Studio School. All students will spend a significant portion of their weekly time participating in meaningful work experience, developing knowledge of how businesses operate and give them direct experience of their local labour market. This unique element of the Studio School's curriculum will play an important role in raising aspirations and equipping students with the skills and experience they need to enter the local job market, set up their own businesses or progress to higher education.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed that the Studio School is to be accommodated at Netherhall Learning Campus (currently comprising an infant and nursery school, a junior school, and a high school – the latter being a specialist school for Creative Arts – which have been moving towards “a through school” with a hard federation and a single governing body). The “through school” developments at the Netherhall campus offer the opportunity to free up the Junior School site in 2010; all partners identified elements of this site as suitable for a studio school. This site will be split into a half-learning and half business-environment. In the business half we are looking to attract a number of small businesses to run their businesses from the school. In exchange for ample parking, state-of-the-art technologies, subsidised rent and other associated benefits they will agree to give time to the studio school (Tutoring, advice, workshops, work experience and/or joint projects). The businesses working within the studio school will be matched to the subjects and areas being taught.
- 3.1.9 Lead members are very clear that the studio school must be a facility which will be accessible for all Kirklees young people and that the process for recruiting students must ensure this.
- 3.1.10 The Studio School will provide 300 places for students of all abilities aged 14-19; 120 places for 14-16 year olds and 180 places for 16-18 year olds. The Studio School will have Creative and Media as its specialism and will commence operation as an extended pilot focussed on Netherhall learners in September 2010. It is then anticipated that students will be admitted on a phased basis with two main points of entry at 14 and 16. Potential students should have a strong interest in Creative & Media based education and training, a commitment to a vocational & practical curriculum and a capacity to gain Level 2.
- 3.1.11 DCSF are very clear that the Kirklees Studio School is based on a “faculty within a school” model and is not an academy or a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). The development of the Studio School is not intended to have a negative impact on other schools. However concerns have been raised by Kirklees High School Head-teachers' Association about the possible adverse impact of the development (see section 4 below). Discussions with representatives of Kirklees High School Head-teachers are being held (including a meeting with lead members) and further meetings are planned for the coming term in order to find ways to address these concerns.
- 3.1.12 The Studio School sits outside of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) arrangements and funding. Capital funding for the creation of the studio school (£4 million) and contribution towards start up and initial revenue costs come directly from DCSF; neither Kirklees as a whole nor any school will receive reduced BSF funding because of the studio school. The studio school concept does not predetermine any decisions about Netherhall with respect to Schools for the Future plans/proposals for South Kirklees or the Huddersfield area. The studio school concept or model can be transferred to another school or site; it is expected that studio school provision would be incorporated within the South Kirklees School configuration.
- 3.1.13 The scheme is attracting a capital budget allocation of £4 million and initial revenue funding subject to further discussion with DCSF. DCSF have been working with the Council,

Netherhall and the Studio Schools Trust to develop:

- an Expression of Interest to be used as the basis for the release of revenue funding; this has now been finalised and further meetings are planned with DCSF over the summer in relation to the release of revenue funding; and
- a Capital Grant letter from DCSF for £4 million to be used as the basis for the release of capital funding, followed by more detailed work with Partnership For Schools on the use of the capital funding. These processes are currently underway.

## **3.2 Scheme Design**

### *Procurement*

- 3.2.1 The scheme includes several moves around the Netherhall Campus including the move of junior school pupils to within the secondary school building and the conversion of the existing junior school into a studio school facility. There is also the need to relocate the existing ETHOS PRU and to move adult education from the secondary school building.
- 3.2.2 The Netherhall Learning Campus forms part of our Public Private Partnership (PPP) grouped schools PPP project and, in accordance with the contract, Semperian are the preferred supplier for all development works on the campus.
- 3.2.3 Asset Management have worked with Semperian to select the design team working on the feasibility study. Potential team members are all members of Semperian's partnering framework. The project architects, Stephen George partnership (SGP) were selected competitively following interview and an analysis of their fee proposal. Other team members, e.g. project management, cost consultants and Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) consultants were selected through similar processes. The design team has currently been appointed up to the end of the feasibility stage.
- 3.2.4 For the next stage of the programme it is proposed that, subject to Cabinet approval, the Council commission Semperian to extend their appointment of the existing team and appoint further consultants, e.g. structural engineers, topographical surveyors, and the main contractor to provide construction and programme advice. These further consultants and contractors will be subject to similar competitive selection.

### *Scheme Design*

- 3.2.5 The feasibility, led by SGP, has determined a workable solution, which meets all the key outcomes of the Studio School brief and most secondary objectives. SGP have undertaken significant consultation with key stakeholders to arrive at this solution.
- 3.2.6 The scheme sees the junior school moving to a location between the high school and the infant & nursery school with the bulk of the accommodation in one block of the high school, consolidating the look and feel of the campus as a 3-16 through school. There will be a physical link between the junior and infant & nursery schools, mirroring and strengthening the educational link shared by the schools.
- 3.2.7 ETHOS Pupil Referral Unit (ETHOS) will move into one wing of the current junior school building with the balance of that building available for the creation of the Studio School.
- 3.2.8 September 2010 will see a start to the work of the Studio School, although the capital works and associated moves will not be complete and thus there will need to be a careful phasing of the programme of work and associated moves around the campus from September 2010 onwards.

## *Budget*

3.2.9 The Studio School has received a DCSF capital grant allocation of £4 million. This grant does not include funding for the relocation of ETHOS. Cost estimates for the construction works are available based on a per metre rate and without the benefit of details design and investigations. These cost estimates are, therefore, subject to change. The current estimates for construction works, including fees but excluding VAT are £4.86 million for the creation of the studio school and the move of the junior school

3.2.10 Work is now underway to address this shortfall :

- to reduce the costs for the creation of the studio school and the relocation of the junior school in line with the £4 million capital grant; and
- to significantly reduce the costs of the relocation of ETHOS and to fund this separately.

3.2.11 Since the Netherhall Campus is part of our PPP portfolio, all works are subject to Facilities Management (FM) and Lifecycle charges. The proposed works will increase these charges across the campus. The liability for these charges will be covered by the revenue budgets of five rather than the current four organisations.

## **3.3 Change of age range for Netherhall**

3.3.1 Netherhall High School is currently an 11-16 institution and intends to apply for re-designation as an 11-19 institution specifically to accommodate the post-16 Studio School learners. The studio school will include post-16 learners and thus there is a need to change the age range to incorporate these learners as part of the studio school.

NOTE: This proposal would be related to the studio school provision only and would not be to establish a general sixth form provision at Netherhall. This will be emphasised in consultation materials and reports to decision-makers.

*The Statutory Process to change an 11-16 school into an 11-19 school.*

3.3.2 The process for delivering the change is outlined below -

- The Council can propose a prescribed alteration to raise the upper age limit from 16 years to 19 years
- The Council would carry out the 5-stage statutory process set out in school organisation regulations
  - Consultation [6 weeks in term time]
  - Publication of Proposal
  - Representation [6 weeks]
  - Decision by cabinet [within 2 months of the end of the representation period]
  - Implementation
- If Cabinet approval is given to proceed with the consultation stage of the statutory process, a report on the outcomes of the consultation would be brought back to Members to obtain approval for the publication of the proposal. Following the representation period, the proposal and any representations received would be reviewed by the Kirklees School Organisation Advisory Group before submission to Cabinet for the final decision.

### *Indicative Timeline for the Statutory Process*

3.3.3 The consultation can be undertaken, subject to approval, against the following timetable.

<b>Date (2010)</b>	<b>Action</b>
May	Cabinet approval to proceed
May - June	6 week statutory consultation period
July - August	Publication of statutory proposal and 6 week representation period
September	Cabinet statutory decision
Autumn Term	Implementation

### **3.4 Admissions**

Firm proposals for admissions would be decided during feasibility but are to be based on the following principles:

- The studio school must be a facility which will be accessible for all Kirklees young people and that the admissions process must ensure that the recruitment of young people to the studio school reflects this.
- The Studio School admissions policy and arrangements will comply with admissions law, the School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code.
- The Studio School will admit students at age 14 (Year 10) and at age 16 (Year 12)
- The Admission Number of the Studio School at age 14 (Year 10) would be up to 60, and at age 16 (Year 12) would be up to 90. The Netherhall governors and head-teacher support the principle that the studio school must be a facility made available to all Kirklees young people and have agreed to work with the Local Authority to develop an admissions process to ensure that the recruitment of young people to the studio school reflects this.

### **3.5 Risk Management**

The major risks to the scheme are:

- Lack of adequate capital and revenue funding to support the works required to the premises. These will be managed through value engineering and a careful control of FM and Lifecycle costs along with the identification of appropriate funding streams.
- Planning Permission. The creation of the Studio School may need a change of use planning application over and above one to deal with changes to the buildings, leading to a protracted planning period and the missing of the project timescales. This will be managed through close consultation with the Planning Department and other statutory consultees, e.g. Highways.
- Building Condition. The possibility that the existing buildings could be in poorer condition than the current visual inspections indicate. This will be managed through detailed condition surveys in the post-feasibility stage.
- Asbestos. The discovery of asbestos in the various buildings would impact both cost and programme. This will be managed through appropriate Type 3 Asbestos surveys.
- Delayed completion. The project may not complete on time due its short timescales and complexity. This will be managed through detailed programming and a robust programme management strategy.

## 4.0 Consultees and their opinions

The Studio School project has been developed over the last three years. During this period an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties have contributed to the proposal as noted in section 3.1.4. The Advisory Group are committed to and supportive of the scheme. They highlight the benefits of the Studio School Development, particularly the way in which the enhanced involvement of creative and media businesses in the design and delivery of the curriculum will provide an extended range of vocational opportunities for young people.

The Kirklees High School Head-teachers' Association have indicated their desire to see the Studio School succeed and provide an innovative approach to business collaboration in vocational education. However, through a meeting of Kirklees High School Head-teachers and in discussions with lead members a number of concerns have been raised:

- The Age Weighted Pupil Unit funding would transfer with pupils joining the Studio School in Year 10. Headteachers are concerned about the adverse impact of this loss of funding on schools whose pupils transfer to the Studio School.
- The qualification outcomes of young people transferring to the Studio School at the beginning of Year 10 would not be credited to the school attended in Years 7 to 9 and this could impact on the published results for these schools and therefore on performance ratings.
- The arrangements for admissions lack clarity. Head-teachers are concerned about the difficulty of developing and managing a process for recruitment to the Studio School which provides open access to all young people and ensures that young people of the right calibre that are able to benefit from the Studio School offer will enrol.
- Progression routes for young people at age 16 and at age 19 may be limited because of the focus of the Studio School on creative and media.
- Concern that the potential shortfall in the funding allocation from DCSF and the need to fund the re-location of the PRU may have an impact on the funding for all schools.
- The capital investment of £4 million in the Netherhall Campus might pre-judge future BSF and school organisation plans for the Huddersfield area and increase the number of surplus places in the system.

Lead members acknowledged that these issues required continuing discussion and that this should be managed through a reference group of senior officers and representatives of Kirklees High School Head-teachers Association. This group has begun to meet and discussions on these issues are continuing.

## 5.0 Officer recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 5.1 Approve the establishment of the Creative and Media Studio School on the Netherhall Campus.
- 5.2 Approve the delegation to officers of the decisions to proceed, subject to the identification of sufficient capital and revenue funding being available.
- 5.3 Confirm the appointment of the professional team, its continuation to completion of the scheme and that the scheme appoint consultants, including the main contractor, at the required points within the programme.
- 5.4 Note the need to propose the establishment of post-16 provision as an integral part of the Studio School model for 14-19 education, but that this would be dedicated Creative and Media Diploma provision and would not constitute general 6<sup>th</sup> form provision.
- 5.5 Delegate authority to officers to:
  - develop appropriate consultation materials and carry out a 6-week statutory consultation process
  - bring the outcomes of consultation back to Cabinet for approval to proceed further with the statutory process

- produce recruitment arrangements for the Studio School which ensure accessibility for young people from across Kirklees

## 6.0 Cabinet portfolio holder recommendations

- 6.1 That the studio school must be a facility which will be accessible for all Kirklees young people and the admissions process must ensure that the recruitment of young people to the studio school reflects this.
- 6.2 Approval should be given to proceed with the studio school development in line with the above officer recommendations and next steps set out below.

## 7.0 Next steps

- 7.1 Prepare, submit and secure all necessary consents.
- 7.2 Complete and sign off the funding agreements.
- 7.3 Review the scheme design to reduce the costs for the creation of the studio school and the relocation of the junior school in line with the £4 million capital grant and to reduce significantly the costs of the relocation of ETHOS and to fund this separately
- 7.4 Undertake a programme of consultation on change of age range.
- 7.5 Continue dialogue with stakeholders in order to develop the admissions and recruitment process which reflect the decision of lead members.
- 7.6. Develop the associated recruitment arrangements for the studio school.

## 8.0 Contact officers and relevant papers

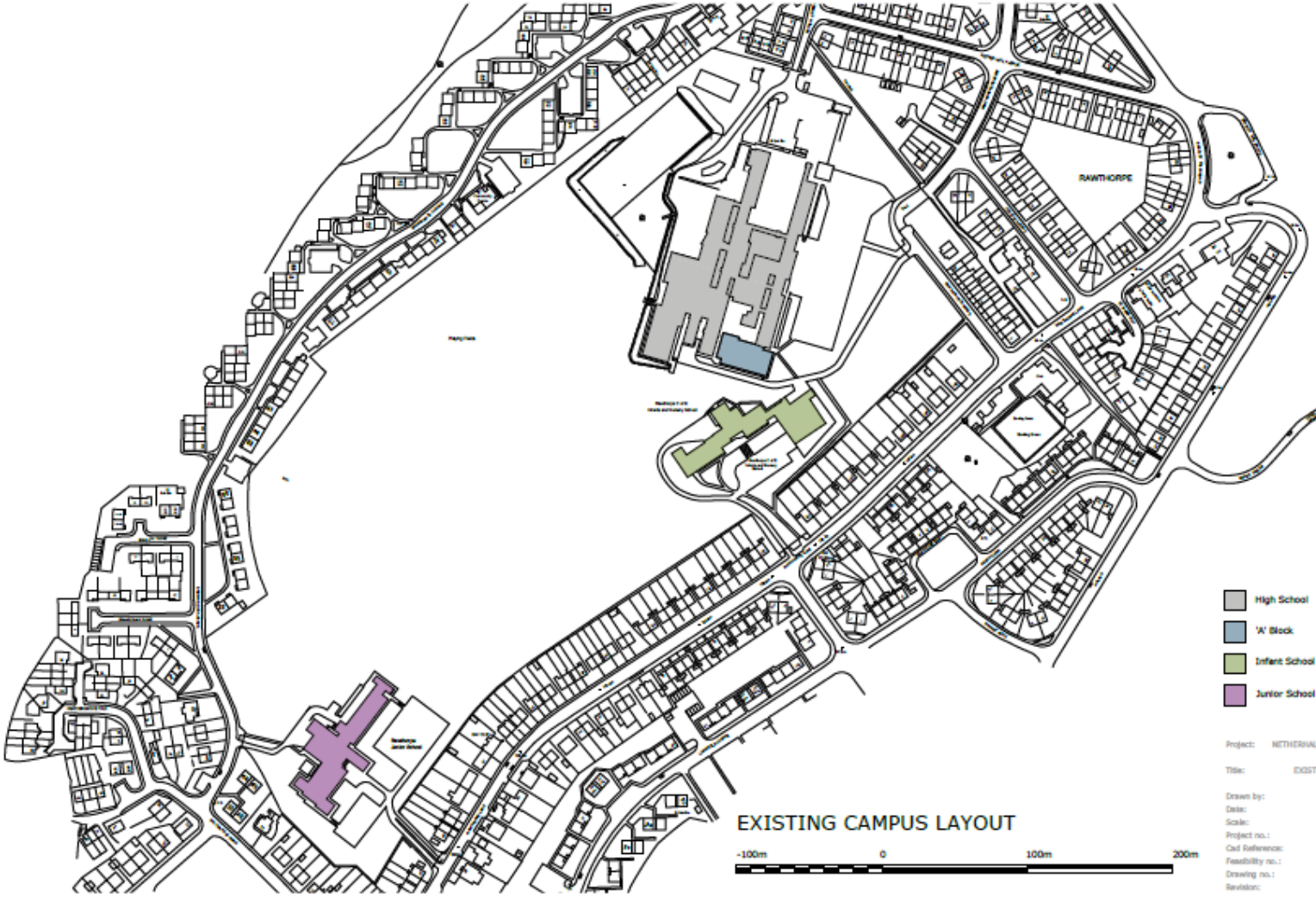
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Appendix One - Netherhall Campus - Site layout



EXISTING CAMPUS LAYOUT

- High School
- A' Block
- Infant School
- Junior School

Project:	NETHERHALL LEARNING CAMPUS
	FEASIBILITY STUDY
Title:	EXISTING CAMPUS LAYOUT
Drawn by:	GB
Date:	03/2010
Scale:	1:2500
Project no.:	8793
Ord Reference:	87930001
Feasibility no.:	-
Drawing no.:	V007
Revision:	-

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