
Cabinet Member (Education)

19 December 2013

Name of Cabinet Member:

Acting Cabinet Member (Education) – Councillor D Chater

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director: Education and Inclusion

Ward(s) affected:

Foleshill

Title: Proposed Expansion of Edgewick Primary School 2015/16

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The City is experiencing a significant rise in birth rate and inward migration. For September 2014 admissions, sufficient places are available for the citywide reception cohort, but there are insufficient reception places to meet parental demand in some parts of the City. This report seeks approval to consult on a proposal to increase the number of school places at Edgewick Primary School from one to two forms of entry (1 to 2 FE) with effect from September 2015.

Recommendations:

The Acting Cabinet Member is requested to approve the following recommendations:

1. To formally consult on proposals to increase the size of Edgewick Primary School from one to two forms of entry with effect from September 2015;
2. Delegate authority from the Cabinet Member (Education) to the Director of Education and Inclusion to agree any necessary consultation arrangements;
3. To agree to refer a report on the outcome of the consultation to Cabinet in March 2014;
4. To present a further report to Cabinet in Spring 2014 recommending the publication of formal statutory notices to expand additional schools in September 2015.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: List of Expanded Primary Schools 2008-2014

Other useful background papers:

Cabinet Report 5th March 2013- Proposed Expansion and Changes to Admission Numbers for 12 Primary Schools for September 2014: Determination of Statutory Notices.

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

In accordance with paragraph 4.2.27 of the Constitution, Councillor Clifford, as the nominee of the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, has been invited to attend the Cabinet Member (Education) meeting to agree the need for urgency such that call-in arrangements will not apply. The reason for urgency is that in order to meet commitments towards the grant conditions for targeted basic need, the statutory consultation needs to be completed by the end of May 2014 and to meet this deadline formal consultation will begin on 6th January 2014 for recommendation to Cabinet in March 2014.

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Proposed Expansion of Edgewick Primary School 2015/16

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In response to a significant rise in birth rate and inward migration the Council has been increasing primary school admission numbers and providing additional permanent classrooms since September 2008. During the period 2008 to 2012 an additional 615 reception places have been created at 28 schools across the City (refer to Appendix 1). Despite this increase for the first time in many years the Council agreed to allocate an additional 135 reception places at 5 schools for September 2012 only as a consequence of unprecedented numbers seeking reception places at primary schools in the north and east of the city.
- 1.2 Numbers of pupils requiring reception places are continuing to rise and at its meeting on 5th March 2013 Cabinet determined statutory notices to expand a further 12 schools which will provide an additional 330 reception places from September 2014 (refer to Appendix 1). It deferred a decision on proposals to expand a further 8 schools to help meet forecast demand beyond 2014.
- 1.3 In March 2013, the Government announced one-off funding for a Targeted Basic Need Programme (TBNP) to support areas of the country that are experiencing high levels of demand for additional pupil places in schools. In April 2013 bids were submitted on behalf of 7 Coventry school expansion projects. Six of these applications were for projects already included in the approved Education Capital Programme plus Edgewick Primary School which had been identified as an additional priority scheme.
- 1.4 An application was submitted to expand Edgewick from 1FE to 2FE through a complete rebuild. It would not be possible to expand the existing building given the existing site and building constraints. An initial feasibility study has established that even with these significant site constraints a new build at two storeys is achievable. The current buildings are of CLASP construction and are in need of replacement. The basis of the application, which had to meet stringent DfE criteria was as follows:
- Edgewick is located in Planning Area 1B with Broad Heath, Hill Farm, Joseph Cash, Stanton Bridge, St. Augustine's Catholic and St. Elizabeth's Catholic. There are currently 420 reception places available which includes the 30 additional reception places created at Broad Heath in September 2012. Forecast numbers suggest that provision for approximately 460 reception children will be required in 2018/19 – 483 including a 5% planning margin. On the basis of the current number of reception places available therefore, there will be a shortfall of approximately 63 reception places assuming a 5% planning margin. The proposed increase at Edgewick would therefore reduce the shortfall to 33 places. The Tauheedul Schools Trust is likely to apply for a new primary free school located within this Planning Area which if successful could address this shortfall, without the need for the Council to provide any further places in LA maintained schools. In any event providing sufficient places in existing schools would be difficult to achieve given that the majority of schools in the area have already been expanded.
 - All 9 of the community primary schools within 1 mile of Edgewick are either proposed to be or have been expanded in the last 5 years.
 - It is a popular school and first preferences for reception places is consistently above the PAN;
 - The school is rated as good by OFSTED;
 - The school is one form of entry – the ability to deliver a broad curriculum, provide opportunities for professional development and deliver efficient use of resources is better provided in schools of 2FE and above

- Edgewick is located in a densely populated area. Whilst the current site is undersized the City Council owns some adjacent land, potentially unlocking a very constrained site.
- 1.5 On 18 July 2013 the Council were informed that 5 of the applications - Little Heath, Hollyfast, Corpus Christi, Whitley Abbey and Edgewick Primary Schools – had been approved. Each application was for a 1FE expansion of the existing school.
 - 1.6 Officers are therefore now proposing that Edgewick should be expanded from 1FE to 2FE through a complete school rebuild to open in September 2015. OJEU notices and advertisement for a partnering design team and a partnering contractor have commenced with the aim of completing interviews to select the partnering design team and contractor by February 2014.
 - 1.7 Schedule 2 and 4 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) set out the alterations that can be made by Governing Bodies and Local Authorities (LAs). Those bringing forward statutory proposals to expand a school must consult interested parties, and doing so must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance.
 - 1.8 The DfE guidance states that statutory proposals are required where it is proposed to increase the admission number by 27 or more. Paragraph 12 of the DfE guidance states that statutory proposals are required for enlargement of the premises if the physical capacity of the school is increased by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200 pupils whichever is the lesser.
 - 1.9 Consultation must take place with the Governing Body of the school subject to the proposal, families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school, any other Local Authorities likely to be affected by the proposal, the Governing Bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected, families of any pupils at any other schools who may be affected by the proposal, trade unions who represent staff, the appropriate diocesan authorities or the relevant faith group where the proposal is likely to affect a school which has a particular religious character, MPs whose constituencies include the school or whose constituents are likely to be affected by the proposal, Early Years Development Partnership, those who benefit from a contractual arrangement giving them use of the premises and such other persons as appear to be appropriate.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act, the City Council has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient places for pupils in the city. The position for September 2015 admissions is extremely tight.
- 2.2 In 2008, the Council set out its "Strategy for Change" which included a Strategy for Growth to accommodate the increase in demand for primary school places. The Strategy for Growth was widely consulted on including, a full public consultation, primary heads, special school heads, children and young people and parents. The strategy sets out the systematic increase of primary schools through analysing school sites and providing additional permanent accommodation on sites capable of expanding and where demand exceeds supply, including the 5% planning margin.
- 2.3 It is therefore proposed to consult on the permanent expansion of Edgewick Primary School given that it is the only viable proposal in that area of the City.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Preliminary consultation has taken place with the school's Headteacher and Governing Body who are supportive of the proposal.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Consultation on the proposed permanent expansion of Edgewick Primary School for September 2015 is planned for the Spring Term 2014. A report will be brought to Cabinet in March 2014 on the outcome of the consultation.

4.2 Subject to the outcome of the consultation and necessary approvals, the revised admission number of 60 will apply to school admissions from the academic year commencing in September 2015.

4.3 The draft timetable for consultation is outlined below:

Outline Schedule	Activity
6 January – 31 January 2014	Consultation period, 4 weeks (including) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the consultation material and distribute to parents, staff and governors at the school. • Hold meetings with staff, governors and parents /carers / community about the proposed changes to the admission number. • Write to inform neighbouring Local Authorities, schools and their parents. • Consult with other stakeholders and partners.
31 January 2014	Closing date for consultation responses
4 March 2014	Report outcome of the consultation to Cabinet
17 March 2014	Publish Statutory Notice Representation period – 4 weeks
11 April 2014	End of period to register objections / support
To be arranged	Cabinet Advisory Committee for School Organisation Proposals: considers any objections made in response to the Statutory Notices (if required)
13 May 2014	Report to Cabinet
27 May 2014	Allow 2 weeks for possible Scrutiny call -in
TBC – if required	Allow 4 weeks for any Governing Body appeals against the Local Authority's decision
TBC – if required	Send to Schools Adjudicator Allow 6 weeks

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The Local Authority currently receive annual revenue funding for schools, and school-related services (i.e. funding for employee costs, running costs etc), based on the level of city wide pupil numbers at the relevant count date. This funding will therefore reflect increases/decreases in city wide pupil numbers. Funding is delegated to schools via the Fair Funding Formula, approximately 75% of this is based on pupil numbers.

The Local Authority has received higher levels of capital funding for the period 2008/09 to 2013/14 to reflect the increasing pupil places. Capital funding allocated by the DfE for 2013/14 onwards will be required to expand Edgewick and work will need to commence during 2014/15 to ensure the additional places are available for September 2015. Subject to formal approval, it is therefore anticipated that the Edgewick scheme will be funded from a combination of Targeted Basic Need grant awarded this year and existing People directorate capital programme resources.

5.2 Legal implications

The City Council has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act to provide sufficient school places. The permanent extension of Edgewick Primary School from September 2015, will require the publication of a statutory notice under Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspection Act 2006.

The consultation and determination arrangements will meet the requirements of The Education and Inspection Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). Failure to comply with these statutory requirements would leave the Council unable to expand school places as required and subject to action by DfE.

The public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 imposes on decision makers when carrying out any of its functions, the duty to have due regard to the need to 1) eliminate discrimination, 2) advance equality of opportunity and 3) foster good relations across all of the protected characteristics (which as relates to education are disabilities, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation). "Due regard" requires more than just an awareness of the equality duty. It requires demonstration of a rigorous analysis by the decision maker. Decision makers must be consciously thinking about the three aims as part of their decision making process with rigour and with an open mind. The duty is continuing and non delegable. Consideration must be given to the potential adverse impacts of any proposal and the measures needed to minimise any discriminatory effects.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet local needs. The permanent expansion of primary schools would increase the places available for reception pupils and enable the City Council to fulfil its legal obligations.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Provision of sufficient school places is included on the Corporate Risk Register. Officers regularly (weekly) review the position in relation to admissions to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet demand.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Schools and officers will form part of the partnering teams together with the design teams and contractors to develop the designs and construction of the schools to be extended for September 2014.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

The proposed expansion of Edgewick Primary School and increase of its admission number aims to ensure that all Coventry children have access to education in accordance with their needs. Any revised accommodation changes and admission arrangements take into account the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 in the context of their possible impact on equal opportunities.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

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Coventry Primary Schools Expanded, 2008 to 2014

Appendix 1

Year Expanded	School Name	Reception Class Places		Additional Reception Class Places
		Before Expansion	After Expansion	
September 2008	Aldermoor Farm	45	60	15
	Ernesford Grange	45	60	15
	Gosford Park	45	60	15
	Hill Farm	60	90	30
	Joseph Cash	45	60	15
	Walsgrave C of E	45	60	15
Sub total 2008				105
September 2009	Broad Heath	30	60	30
	Manor Park	75	90	15
	Richard Lee	60	90	30
	Stanton Bridge	45	60	15
Sub total 2009				90
September 2010	Courthouse Green	60	90	30
	Foleshill C of E	45	60	15
	Hollyfast	45	60	15
	Moseley	45	60	15
	Willenhall	45	60	15
Sub total 2010				90
September 2011	Hearsall	45	60	15
	Henley Green	30	60	30
	Holbrook	60	90	30
	John Gulson	75	90	15
	Moseley*	60	90	30
	Sacred Heart	45	60	15
	Southfields	30	60	30
	Spon Gate	30	60	30
	Stoke Heath	45	60	15
Sub total 2011				210 (180 in future years)
September 2012	Alderman's Green	45	90	45
	Allesley	45	60	15
	Grange Farm	30	60	30
	St Augustine's Catholic	45	60	15
	St Bartholomew's C of E	45	60	15
	Ernesford Grange*	60	90	30
Sub total 2012				150 (120 in future years)
September 2014	Aldermoor Farm	60	90	30
	Broad Heath	60	90	30
	Clifford Bridge	30	60	30
	Coundon	60	90	30
	Corpus Christi Catholic	60	90	30
	Frederick Bird	90	120	30
	Moat House	45	60	15
	Hollyfast	60	90	30
	Little Heath	30	60	30
	Park Hill	45	60	15
	Whitley Abbey	30	60	30
	Wyken Croft	90	120	30
Sub total 2014				330
Grand Total				915

Notes:

*Moseley 2011 the increase in reception class places is for one year only.
*Ernesford Grange 2012 the increase in reception class places is for one year only.

September 2012: additional places allocated at Broad Heath (90), Clifford Bridge (60)
Ernesford Grange (90) Frederick Bird (120), & Moat House (60)

September 2013: Increased PAN for Broad Heath (90), Clifford Bridge (60) Frederick Bird
(120), & Moat House (60) maintained pending permanent expansion from
September 2014.