
Cabinet

9 February 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education – Councillor D Kershaw

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All wards

Title: Outcome of Consultation on a Proposal to make Prescribed Alterations to Tiverton School and Whitley Abbey Primary School

Is this a key decision?

No - The two schools are located in Sherbourne and Cheylesmore Wards. Pupils could be admitted from all wards in the City but it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant and it is therefore not deemed to be a key decision

Executive Summary:

The City Council is seeking to establish a primary Broad Spectrum Special School as part of its wider Inclusion and Special Education Needs (SEN) Strategy approved in July 2005, by making prescribed alterations to Tiverton School, which currently caters for children aged three to eleven who have severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Tiverton currently shares a site with Sherbourne Fields Special School. A further prescribed alteration is also required to extend the age range of Whitley Abbey Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years. The creation of the broad spectrum school and early years provision at Whitley Abbey Primary School will require formal statutory proposals to be brought forward by the Council in line with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. This includes a requirement to consult with key stakeholders. The report provides feedback on the pre-statutory consultation and sets out the proposed next steps.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Note the proposal to make prescribed alterations to Tiverton School;
- 2) Consider the responses to the recent pre-statutory consultation as set out in appendices, 1, 2 and 3 of this report;
- 3) Authorise officers to issue the necessary Statutory Notice to make the following prescribed alterations:

Tiverton School:

- change designation from a school catering for children with severe learning difficulties, to the category of broad spectrum;
- increase the capacity from 42 to 88 places; and
- co-locate the school with Whitley Abbey Primary School; AND

Whitley Abbey Primary School

- extend the age range from 4-11 years to 3-11 years.

- 4) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of People and Executive Director of Resources to finalise the details of the Statutory Notice.
- 5) Receive a further report on the outcome of the statutory consultation at your meeting on 19th April 2016.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Minutes of Tiverton School Consultation Meetings

Appendix 2: Minutes of Whitley Abbey Primary School Consultation Meetings

Appendix 3: Written responses to the Consultation

Background Papers:

None

Other useful Documents:

Consultation on Inclusion & Special Educational Needs Strategy: Towards Enhanced Educational Provision Cabinet Report 12th July 2005

Consultation on a Proposal to make Prescribed Alterations to Tiverton School Cabinet Member for Education Report 25th November 2015

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

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

Outcome of Consultation on a Proposal to make Prescribed Alterations to Tiverton School

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to provide appropriate education provision for children and young people with Special Educational needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Council aims to deliver support for children and young people with SEND in the maintained sector where possible, and within their community, to enable them to enjoy the same range of experiences and opportunities as children with no additional needs. The Council also has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act to provide sufficient school places.
- 1.2 In July 2005, following a report back on the outcomes of the consultation on the Inclusion and SEN Strategy, Cabinet approved the recommendation to identify school sites for the creation of co-located broad-spectrum special schools. To date two such schools have been established – Castlewood Primary and Riverbank Secondary (formerly Alice Stevens). A second primary SEN broad spectrum school is now proposed, co-located with Whitley Abbey Primary School, through the redesignation, change in size and transfer of site of Tiverton School.
- 1.3 Tiverton currently provides 42 places for children aged three to eleven who have severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties and may also have a physical or sensory impairment or an Autistic Spectrum Condition. The vast majority of pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan which names Tiverton School. Early Years pupils from September 2015 have a broad spectrum of Special Educational Need in line with Coventry’s vision for offering broad spectrum special schools across the city.
- 1.4 The school was opened in 1974 on its current site which is shared with Sherbourne Fields School. Although the building is structurally sound, it is now exhibiting many elements beyond the end of their life expectancy – roofs, windows and heating system. An application for funding of £532k was submitted as part of the Government’s Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2 to address these issues but unfortunately this was not successful.
- 1.5 Any proposed changes to Tiverton School and Whitley Abbey Primary School must have regard to the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 which sets out the alterations that can be made by local authorities and the statutory processes that must be followed also taking into account the Secretary of States guidance. This will include the publication of a formal statutory notice.
- 1.6 Although there is no longer a requirement for a ‘pre-publication’ consultation period for prescribed alterations, there is a strong expectation on Local Authorities to consult interested parties in developing their proposal prior to publication as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations.
- 1.7 On 25th November 2015 the Cabinet Member for Education therefore approved a report authorising public consultation on proposals to make prescribed alterations to Tiverton School and Whitley Abbey Primary School. The outcome of that consultation is summarised in paragraph 3 and appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are two options available:
 - a) To publish a statutory notice to make prescribed alterations to Tiverton School to change the type of needs catered for from severe learning difficulties to broad spectrum, to increase the capacity of the school from 42 to 88 places, to co-locate the

school onto the site of the current Whitley Abbey Primary School and to extend the age range of Whitley Abbey from 4-11 to 3-11 years. This would enable the establishment of a new 26 full time equivalent (fte) place nursery class which would serve a need for early years places at both schools; OR

- b) To not proceed to publish a statutory notice and continue to provide for pupils aged 3-11 at the existing Tiverton school, which will not support the delivery of the Inclusion and SEN strategy agreed in 2005 and therefore restrict the options available to the Council when placing pupils in provision appropriate for their needs.

2.2 With reference to the consultation responses summarised the recommended proposal is therefore to approve the publication of a statutory notice to co-locate a broad spectrum special school on the Whitley Abbey Primary School site with capacity for up to 88 pupils and the establishment of a with a new 26 fte place nursery class, which would offer places to both mainstream and SEN pupils.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 There have already been informal discussions with both schools on this proposal, and the Governing Bodies and headteachers are in principle supportive but acknowledge that staff, governors, parents and residents have raised a number of relevant issues that require further discussion.

3.2 Pre-statutory consultation meetings took place in January 2016 as set out below:

Consultation Meeting	Date
Tiverton	Monday 11 January 2016
Whitley Abbey	Friday 15 January 2015

3.3 Separate meetings were held at both schools for staff, governors and parents. An additional meeting for residents was also held at Whitley Abbey. Notes from each of the meetings are attached at appendix 1(Tiverton) and appendix 2 (Whitley Abbey) to this report.

3.4 A clear majority of consultees were broadly in support of the move towards the provision of broad spectrum special school. In summary the main concerns raised during the consultation meetings included:

- Level of integration between the mainstream and broad spectrum schools;
- Potential impact on staffing (particularly non-teaching);
- The impact of new shared nursery class provision at the two schools on existing local early years providers;
- Site specific issues particularly relating to access and traffic congestion. This was a major concern for residents in the Whitley area, particularly in view of the recent Jaguar Land Rover announcement that it proposed to expand its research and development facility. Many residents were of the view that it would only exacerbate the significant parking problems that already exist in the area; and
- Governance, admission and home to school transport arrangements.

Work in these areas will continue to be progressed by your officers who will continue to consult as appropriate with all key stakeholders.

3.5 Six written responses have been received, copies are in appendix 3, they are summarized as follows:

3.5.1 Objection to the proposal because of the impact on existing local early years provision. Currently there are two early years providers in the Whitley area - Whitley Pre-School and

Tiny Teddies. Concern has been expressed by Whitley Pre-School with regards to both the demand for additional early years places in the area and the potential impact on their business.

- 3.5.2 An enquiry from Sherbourne Fields School about the future use of the Tiverton building.
- 3.5.3 Observations and comments from Tiverton School Governors.
- 3.5.4 A response to the consultation from the Tiverton staff.
- 3.5.5 An email on behalf of Mr and Mrs Sherriff, who lease one of the site service operators houses (SSO) on the site. They would like to know how they will be affected by the plans for the redevelopment of the site including their current home, and the former Alice Steven’s building and the other SSO property on site.
- 3.5.6 Support for all the proposals from the staff and governing body of Whitley Abbey Primary school.

Should the Statutory Notice be issued as suggested in Recommendation 3, all these responses will considered as part of the outcomes of statutory consultation.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

The proposed timescale is set out in the following table:

Activity	Approximate Timing
Report to Cabinet on outcome of consultation and seeking approval to publish a statutory notice	9 February 2016
Publication	25 February 2016
Representation (formal consultation 4 weeks)	24 March 2016
Cabinet Advisory Committee for School Organisation Proposals: considers any objections made in response to the Statutory Notice (if required)	April 2016
Report to Cabinet on outcome of statutory consultation and determination of statutory notice	19 th April 2016
Implementation	September 2017

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications
 - 5.1.1 The costs associated with managing the consultation process will be met from within existing revenue budgets.
 - 5.1.2 In June 2015 IDP Architects were appointed to undertake a feasibility study to establish the deliverability of a co-located broad spectrum school on the existing Whitley Abbey/former Alice Stevens School site. The study concluded that that a project can be delivered and this is now being used as a basis for establishing a firm cost for the scheme.
 - 5.1.3 It is anticipated that the capital cost of the scheme will be met from within the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Capital Programme and a further report to seek approval to the capital cost will be brought to Cabinet once the statutory process has been completed. The cost will include the demolition of the vacant Alice Stevens buildings.

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2.1 A statutory notice will need to be published in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to make the necessary prescribed alterations to Tiverton School and Whitley Abbey Primary School. 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 2013. Failure to comply with these statutory requirements would leave the Council unable to implement the proposal as required and subject to action by the Department for Education. It should also be noted that the Council has a statutory duty under Section 14 of the 1996 Education Act to provide sufficient school places.
- 5.2.2 The public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 imposes on decision makers when carrying out any of its functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and 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 public authority decision maker. Decision-makers should also make clear how they are satisfied that the SEN improvement test has been met, including how they have taken account of parental or independent representations which question the proposer's assessment.

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)?

New school buildings will make a significant contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people as set out in the Children & Young People's Plan. The proposed co-located broad spectrum school will also contribute towards the delivery of the Council's Inclusion and SEN strategy.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Monitoring is carried out through a number of different processes. This project will be monitored through a project management team and will be subject to careful scrutiny and regular assessment on progress towards identified milestones. Further monitoring will be carried out through progress reports to the Cabinet Member (Education) and Cabinet.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The co-location of the Tiverton School onto the Whitley Abbey Primary School site will require careful management of admissions and School SEN transport policy to create cohorts for the broad spectrum school. A staff and school leadership change management plan will need to be adopted and implemented prior to the redesignated school opening and taking in its first new pupils. 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 school to be opened in September 2017.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Children and young people with SEN often experience greater discrimination and have fewer opportunities than children without such difficulties. The proposals for the broad spectrum school, co-located with a mainstream school, will provide greater equality and better access to resources for these children with a wide range of educational needs. The new school building would be Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Special Education

Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) compliant. The proposal 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.

Public authority decision makers are under a duty to have due regard to 1) the need to eliminate discrimination, 2) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not 3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not (public sector equality duty - s 149(1) Equality Act 2010). The applicable protected characteristics are disability, gender reassignment; race, religion or belief, sex; sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity.

Decision makers must be consciously thinking about these three aims as part of their decision making process with rigour and with an open mind. The duty is to have “due regard”, not to achieve a result but to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals. Consideration being given to the potential adverse impacts and the measures needed to minimise any discriminatory effects.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Coventry's schools currently account for 28% of the City's carbon footprint and this scheme will support the reduction of that level through replacing old school buildings with modern, energy efficient facilities. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme as amended is a mandatory carbon emissions tax covering non-energy intensive users in both public and private sectors, and is a central part of the UK's strategy to deliver the emission reduction targets set in the Climate Change Act 2008. Emissions from schools (including PFI Schools) are to be included in the total reported carbon emissions for their participating local authority. The new school building would also be designed to mitigate the effects of climate change fluctuations and to help reduce surface water run off as a result of flash or extreme weather events, reducing any negative effects on the local community and environmental infrastructure.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Planning for re-designation to broad spectrum will require close partnership with the PCT, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Social Care and Private/Voluntary Organisations and will enable multi-agency support and provision for children with SEN to be made.

Report author(s):

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Jeanette Essex	Head of Student Services	People	14/01/16	28/01/16
Nigel Clews	Assistant Director Property Asset Management	Place	14/01/16	15/01/16
Helen Williamson	Lead Accountant Capital and Grants Team	Resources	14/01/16	15/01/16
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Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	14/01/16	15/01/16
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Phil Helm	Finance Manager	Resources	14/01/16	15/01/16
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Kirston Nelson	Director of Education, Adult Education & Libraries	People	14/01/16	18/01/16
Councillor D Kershaw	Cabinet Member (Education)		14/01/16	17/01/16
Martin Yardley	Executive Director - Place	Place	14/01/16	26/01/16

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TIVERTON SCHOOL

Consultation Meeting 1

Meeting for parents of pupils at Tiverton School

1pm Monday 11th January 2016

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

It is proposed that Tiverton Primary School, a school for pupils aged 3-11 years with severe learning difficulties should be subject to the following changes:

1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 40 to 80. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School, welcomed parents to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, and Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School.

Mr Simpson played the presentation video and explained the proposals. Parents asked the following questions:

Question: As the pupil numbers will be doubling, will class sizes increase?

Mr Simpson said that there is no intention to increase class sizes.

Question: Will pupils be grouped according to age or ability?

Mr Simpson said that nothing is decided at this stage. The intention is to deliver on an individual basis what is right for each child. It is possible that there will be some grouping according to age, but there will be tiers within those groupings. One of the advantages of being closely aligned to Whitley Abbey Primary School is the possibility of sharing facilities (for example, children from Tiverton attending music sessions at Whitley Abbey).

Ms Eden said that staff and pupils at Whitley Abbey are excited about the proposals, and the children are looking forward to the changes.

Question: What about staffing levels?

Ms Claridge said that the staff consultation will take place today at 3pm, and parents are welcome to attend if they wish. This is not about sharing the site but working closely together so that the children from both schools benefit,

Question: Will the two schools have their own environments and playgrounds?

Ms Claridge said that they would.

A governor said that a lot of work has gone into identifying the best site for this. There were several suggestions, but some of the others presented huge disadvantages. Most of the staff felt that they wanted to continue with the outdoor education which gives the pupils an opportunity to explore the world outside, and Whitley Abbey's site is ideal for this.

Mr Simpson said that it is a lovely mature site which housed a special school for some time, and is therefore already adapted to the needs of Tiverton's children. The proposal is for a facility approximately half the size of the old Alice Stevens School.

Ms Eden said that Whitley Abbey is built on the grounds of what used to be a country estate. Whilst there are issues to be considered in building the new school, it is a fabulous space which the children will enjoy.

Question: Will it be a combined school?

Mr Simpson said that the two schools will be separately run. No decisions have been made about what will happen to the site currently occupied by Tiverton School.

Sherbourne Fields, which will remain in its current location, may want to utilize some of the space, but these decisions will be made at a later stage.

A parent said that she is quite supportive of the idea of a new building and co-location with a mainstream primary school. As she lives in the Tile Hill area of the city, she anticipates some practical problems, but if she can see that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages she can accept the change.

Question: Could parents of children at Tiverton choose Whitley Abbey for their other children?

Mr Simpson said that this can be looked at. Ms Eden said that Whitley Abbey will give this some consideration. A parent said that this would be helpful, given that the two special needs secondary schools are quite close to each other, as it is not easy for parents when their children are at schools at opposite sides of the city. Ms Eden said that consideration would need to be given to start and finish times.

Question: Will the catchment area change?

Mr Simpson said that no decision has been made on this yet, and parents will be invited to take part in the discussions.

Question: Are there any plans in place regarding Three Spires School?

Mr Simpson said that he is not aware of any plans in terms of special provision in the city at present. Ms Eden said that Whitley Abbey has links with Baginton Fields School already.

Question: If these plans go ahead, what will happen to the children when they reach secondary school age? Will they have to remain in that catchment area?

Mr Simpson said that parents should have a choice of secondary school.

Question: Most senior schools have feeder primary schools. Will it be the same here?

Ms Claridge said that this needs to be decided. Currently it is worked out by distance between school and home, so the child would be allocated a place at the secondary school nearest to home which is suitable and has places. There will be clearer criteria in place nearer the time. Mr

Simpson said that it is in the best interests of everyone concerned to get the details completed and out to the parents in good time.

Question: What transport arrangements will be in place to deal with the longer journey?

Mr Simpson said that this will be considered as the plans move forward.

A parent said that she currently drives her child to school, but this may be more difficult after the move because of the distance involved, and asked whether she could make a choice later. She was told that she could.

A parent said that Whitley Abbey is closer to her home than Tiverton, and may fall under the three-mile minimum for transport. She asked whether her current entitlement would be honoured. Her three children all have special needs and it would be very difficult to get them to three different sites if transport was withdrawn.

Mr Simpson said that he understands that parents need to know what the situation will be regarding transport for the children. This will be given careful consideration by the team and Ms Claridge will be told of the decision as soon as possible so that parents can be informed.

A governor said that a transport consultation is being undertaken at present, and Councillor Kershaw is aware of the issues. The governors will be discussing it in detail. Mr Simpson said that parents will have an opportunity to voice their opinions. Transport is a big issue because of the cost to the local authority, which is under a great deal of financial stress at present, However, Councillor Kershaw is very supportive.

Question: Parking at the new site

A governor said that during a visit to the site it was noted that the former Alice Stevens facility had a very small car park, and there was a policy of not bringing cars onto the site.

Ms Applegarth said that the team will be looking at finding a suitable solution, as it is also important that local residents are not inconvenienced.

Mr Simpson said that careful consideration will be given to the issue. At present there is a single access point, but there is another parcel of land which was formerly occupied by a community centre which may be considered suitable to be adapted for use. The team will look at all the options before making a decision.

Question: Will there be further meetings if the proposal is approved?

Ms Claridge said that there will be further meetings to look at each stage as the project develops, and staff have already started to put some ideas together so that the architects have a vision to work from.

Ms Eden said that Whitley Abbey recently had a huge extension. Architects allowed staff to have an input in terms of layout etc. and they are very pleased with the result, so she can vouch for the process.

Ms Claridge thanked parents or attending the meeting and told them that if they had any further questions or comments they are welcome to discuss them with her at any time. The meeting was closed.

Consultation Meeting 2

Meeting for Governors at Tiverton School

1pm Monday 11th January 2016

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

It is proposed that Tiverton Primary School, a school for pupils aged 3-11 years with severe learning difficulties should be subject to the following changes:

1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 40 to 80. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School, welcomed governors to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, and Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School.

Mr Simpson played the presentation video and explained the proposals. Parents asked the following questions:

Question: Do you know where the second Secondary School will be?

Mr Simpson said that this has not been decided. The intention is to create a second broad spectrum Secondary School but a suitable site has not been identified yet. At present the focus is on the funding for this project. Finding suitable sites for co-location is difficult. Ms Applegarth said that the majority of schools are now academies, which also makes co-location more difficult.

Mr Simpson said that there will be budgetary restraints, and guidelines will be in place regarding building layout, although they will not be mandatory. There will be some flexibility, and the views of the parents, governors and staff will be taken into account. The construction of six new schools, including Riverbank, has recently been completed; these were very prescriptive in terms of the school building programme, and the bureaucracy involved with the planning of these schemes has been horrendous. There will be more flexibility with this project, but it will need to remain within the guidelines.

Ms Applegarth said that it is important to achieve good value for money. Whilst it is vital that all the basics are in place, there can be some flexibility on other things. There will be a limit to the amount of space available and how it is shared out. Government guidelines will decide whether or not it is good value. If it equates to more than £4000 a square metre questions will be asked. A hydrotherapy facility would be very expensive.

Ms Eden said that Health and Safety issues will also be a consideration, and there will be certain things that cannot be done.

Mr Simpson said that the finer details will be up for discussion at a later date.

Question: Will the proposals include use of ecological energy (e.g. solar panels)?

Ms Eden said that solar panels were considered at Whitley Abbey, but after consultation underfloor heating was installed which has proved to be very efficient,

Ms Applegarth said that there will be recognition of the children's special needs with regard to maintaining suitable temperature.

Mr Simpson said that the issue is very much site specific. Various heating systems have been tried at different sites, with varying degrees of success, and decisions will be made when all factors have been taken into account.

Question: Will there be any consultation with the bus company?

Mr Simpson said that he is aware that the bus service to Whitley only goes to the end of the road, but not onto the estate, which is a bit frustrating. He understands that this is a serious consideration for those using public transport on a regular basis. The location of the new site will be closer for some parents and further for others.

Ms Eden said that there are two bus stops at the end of the road, and the school is a ten-minute walk from these.

Mr Simpson said that he understands that there is a consultation due to start soon which will be in the public domain in the next few weeks.

Question: Will the designs be done after the meeting on 9/4/16?

Mr Simpson said that it is most likely that the team will be looking to engage with a design and contractor team prior to 9/4/16 to start moving the project forward, even though it will not have been formally agreed at that stage.

Ms Applegarth said that formal notices have been posted seeking contractors interested in undertaking the work in terms of both design and build. The selection process will take place over the Easter period. The Team will work closely with the school and community to ensure that the best selection is made. It is anticipated that the planning will take place during June and July and the plans will be submitted. Whilst these are being considered and consent is awaited more work will be carried out on the design details. It is anticipated that the building will take 11-12 months to complete, and it is hoped that the new facility will be ready to move into in time for the start of the new school year in September 2017.

Question: What is happening to the Alice Stevens building?

Ms Applegarth said that there is a demolition contract out at the moment. This will have to go through Procurement, but it is hoped that the building will be demolished as soon as possible.

Question: Should we be making a joint representation to the Cabinet Meeting?

Mr Simpson said that it would be helpful if governors wish to submit a letter of support setting out issues of concern. This could be done either individually or as a group.

Ms Claridge said that there are no special educational places available in Coventry at the moment, and the number will need to be increased.

Question: What about staffing levels?

Mr Simpson said that this is about the admissions policy and how it is organised between the two schools. It is anticipated that six full-time places will be required.

Question: What about car parking facilities?

Ms Eden said that this was an issue throughout the building work at Whitley Abbey last year. Parking will be more of an issue for the special school, and during discussions last year Ms Eden stressed that it is important that there is sufficient provision for the staff and parents who need it, and to ensure that local residents are not inconvenienced by the increased number of vehicles accessing the site.

Ms Eden said that problems were exacerbated last year because of the close proximity of the Jaguar Land Rover site, as some of the employees were parking in the surrounding roads and residents were assuming that it was visitors to the school. As a result, the Residents' Association is very keen to look at parking and access issues for the campus. Today's news about Jaguar Land Rover expanding the workforce could have considerable impact upon the school and surrounding roads.

Ms Eden said that there had been tension between parents and local residents when Alice Stevens School was located on the site.

Mr Simpson said planning guidance is clear, but a strong case will be made to the provision of additional spaces for visitors.

Ms Claridge thanked governors for attending, and the meeting was closed.

Consultation Meeting 3

Meeting for staff at Tiverton School

3.30pm Monday 11th January 2016

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

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1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 40 to 80. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School, welcomed staff to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, and Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School.

Mr Simpson played the Presentation video and explained the proposals. Teachers asked the following questions:

Question: Are the children guaranteed transport?

Mr Simpson said that this is up for a consultation discussion about how it will go over the next few years, which will drive the solution in terms of the broad spectrum school. It has been identified as a major issue and will be resolved as soon as possible.

Question: Can you confirm that there will be 88 places?

Mr Simpson said that 88 is the maximum, and it is anticipated that there will be a gradual increase to that number.

Question: At the last meeting it was indicated that the timescales were not realistic. Is this still the case? Staff and governors do not want to be cutting corners.

Mr Simpson said that it is important that the right solutions are reached, and it is not intended to rush things through. The timetable is tight, but the team believes it is deliverable. A lot of things could happen to cause unforeseen delays, but it is hoped that the targets will be reached.

Ms Applegarth said that it would be ideal for the building work to be completed by July 2017 so that it would be ready for the start of the new school year in September. It is recognized that this will be tight, and it is important to identify where the problems will be in order to remain on schedule. It is important that the move is not delayed for another academic year, as this would be detrimental to the children.

Question: At the consultation it was suggested that the children would need a transition period. Is this still the case?

Mr Simpson said that the team already has some experience of this from the Riverbank project, and a lot of work was put in there to ensure that the transition was as easy as possible for the children and staff. It is important that everyone works collaboratively over the coming months to ensure that the move is as stress-free as possible.

Question: Ideally would the building need to be ready for the beginning of July in order to be settled in for September?

Mr Simpson said that everyone needs to work in partnership, in order to be clear about what is achievable and what is not.

Question: If the building is not ready for September 2017 could the move take place later in the school year – e.g. after the October half-term?

Mr Simpson said that this is an issue which has come up in the past. The team needs to work closely with the Head Teachers, governors and staff to see how best to complete the move and, if necessary, use the half-term period to complete the process.

Ms Applegarth said that the team is informing the designers and builders that the work needs to be completed for the start of the 2017 school year. The work will need to begin by July this year if it is to be completed in time, and a lot of thought needs to be put into the design before the work begins. The design work should begin just after Easter, and should be finalised over the summer term. It is vital to get the best use of the space, and the designers will be under pressure to come up with the best solution. It is vital that the key dates are met.

Ms Eden said that she is hoping that good use is made of the time over the summer holidays so that the building will be ready by September 2017

Question: As the student numbers will be increasing, will there be an increase in medical staff?

Mr Simpson said that the capacity will be increased gradually. The authority will be working with the staff and governors to assess what additional staff will be needed to manage the increased pupil numbers.

Question: If the move goes ahead and there will be more classes in the future, where do we stand if we are asked to take another child now?

Ms Claridge said that Jeanette is not here to answer this question, but it is about planning for the increase in numbers. Governors need to be clear about the guidelines and putting the children's needs first.

Question: With regard to staffing, will our contracts remain the same, or will we be co-located with Whitley Abbey?

Mr Simpson said that it is assumed that staff will automatically transfer on their current conditions and there is no indication of being a joint facility as far as staffing is concerned. Each school will have its own governing body which will only be responsible for its own school.

Question: What about staff who will not be able to get to the new site?

Mr Simpson said that he can see that the distance could be a problem for some members of staff, and consideration will need to be given to whether they could be redeployed elsewhere, or whether they will be considered to have forfeited their positions if they do not wish to move. He will speak to HR and inform Ms Claridge of the decisions.

Question: Will there be enough car parking spaces when the numbers increase?

Mr Simpson said that there is a bus stop at the end of Abbey Road, but not directly outside the school site. Car parking is governed by planning guidance which at the moment is one space for every two members of staff. There may be some leeway in terms of the proposed new facility, as it is recognised that there may be significant demand for car parking. The team will see if they can be creative with the space available in order to provide extra spaces without sacrificing the green areas.

Ms Claridge said that there is a plan in place to take staff over to view the site, as not many have seen it yet. It is proposed that this takes place in May or June this year.

Ms Applegarth said that the school numbers are growing. It is a popular residential area and the proposed expansion at Jaguar Land Rover will also be a factor

Question: Will our budget be affected?

Mr Simpson said that in terms of new builds, the team is responsible for the building and anything fixed to the building as part of the project. The school is asked to provide the resources for loose fittings (e.g. computers etc.). Ms Claridge said that the school is building up a pot of money to equip the new building.

Question: When the building is up and running will the facilities be for 88 places initially or as the additional children join?

Mr Simpson said that the budget will increase in line with pupil numbers. There should be significant savings on running costs for the new building as it will be more efficient. Co-location with Whitley Abbey may also provide opportunities to buy in bulk for the two schools.

Question: Will applications we have made for repairs to the roof at the current site still be considered?

Mr Simpson said that it is recognised that this school will have to be fit for purpose until the move, but there will be a need to keep spending to a minimum because of the short time the site will be needed. All proposed repairs will need to be looked at individually and decisions will be made on how best to spend the money available.

Question: What will happen to this site?

Mr Simpson said that this has not been decided. Sherbourne Fields may wish to use it, or it could be taken over by another education service provider. A decision will be made at a later date.

Question: Will the new facility be called Tiverton School?

Mr Simpson said that this will be a decision for staff and governors. Alice Stevens decided to change their name to Riverside when they moved to the Ernesford Grange site.

A member of staff said that staff do not want the school to be made into an academy. Mr Simpson said that this is why the decision was taken to rebuild on the new site.

Question: What will happen if the plans are not approved?

Mr Simpson said that he would be surprised if approval is not granted at this stage, but it is a council decision. If permission is refused, consideration would be given to what improvements could be made to the current site instead. However this would not then be a co-location and would not address the current problems. Mr Simpson said that he believes it is a positive proposal and in the best interests of the staff and children, and Councillor Kershaw is very enthusiastic about the plans.

Question: What are the logistics of moving?

Mr Simpson said that this will be a decision for the governors. If they need a few extra days' closure to complete the move it could be accommodated.

Ms Applegarth said that the team will compile a list of who pays for what so that everyone can set their budgets accordingly.

Question: will we have to take everything with us?

Mr Simpson said that the building will have to be totally cleared, and skips will be provided for what does not need to go to the new site.

Ms Claridge thanked staff members for attending, and the meeting was closed.

WHITLEY ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Meeting 1: Meeting for Parents of Pupils (3:30pm Friday 15th January 2016)

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

It is proposed that Tiverton Primary School, a school for pupils aged 3-11 years with severe learning difficulties should be subject to the following changes:

1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 42 to 88. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School, welcomed parents to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, Mr Bill Faults, Chair of Governors, Whitley Abbey Primary School, and Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School. Mr Barry Keegan, Minute Secretary, Business Services (Safeguarding), recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Mr Ashley Simpson played the Presentation video and explained the proposals. Parents asked the following questions:

Questions, Answers and Comments

Question/Comment: Will the new building be all on one level?

Mr Simpson confirmed that the new building is expected to be single-storey, as a two-storey building is inappropriate for children with mobility difficulties. Whilst the building will cater for up to 88 children, it will be more compact than the former Alice Stevens site. The Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services department will liaise with Whitley Abbey Primary over where the new building will be located. The aim is for both schools to work together closely and this will be reflected in the design phase (which both school will contribute to).

Question/Comment: I am concerned about access and parking issues.

Mr Simpson acknowledged that this is an issue. He noted that there is the potential for the new 'Tiverton' building to be built to the back of the site and that, with the demolition of the Alice Stevens's building, this could provide space for other facilities, such as a car park. However, planning regulations only permit one car parking space per two members of staff.

One parent noted that the route onto the school site is particularly narrow and there have been a lot of problems caused by inconsiderate parking. It was suggested that the start and end times for the two schools could be staggered to try and mitigate this. Mr Simpson noted that this is being tried by other schools and that it is worth exploring. Ms Eden and Ms Claridge highlighted the need to ensure the flow of traffic is safe and meets the needs of the children and parents.

Question/Comment: It feels like there have been parking issues for a long time. Is it an option for there to be parking bays on Abbey Road?

Mr Simpson stated that this could be explored. He emphasised that the department recognised that access and parking are a difficult issue and that it needs to be addressed as far as possible. He reiterated his view that the demolition of the Alice Stevens building would provide more options for the proposed development.

Several parents expressed their support for the proposal but voiced concerns about the issues of parking, with one person highlighting that the Jaguar Land Rover development exacerbates the issues and another noting that several residents have paved their driveways because of parking issues, which in turn leads to very little on-street parking. Mr Simpson reiterated that these issues will have to be considered and addressed as part of the proposed development.

One parent emphasised the need to address the issue of congestion and suggested a walking bus service for more local pupils, as the 'Tiverton' children would need to be prioritised with spaces for parking. It was acknowledged that the Council would be unable to provide parking for everyone but that having some more space would be helpful.

Question/Comment: Will the building impact on Whitley Abbey Primary?

Ms Eden noted that Whitley Abbey Primary has recently had building developments. The Council had been mindful of the impact and tried to arrange most of the building to take place in the holidays. She noted that similar arrangements will be made and that the building should have even less of an impact on the children's learning, as the proposed development is further away from the school than the previous development.

Question/Comment: If the proposal is rejected, are there other options for the Alice Stevens building?

Mr Simpson confirmed that there are no other plans for the Alice Stevens building, which will be demolished irrespective of the proposal.

Question/Comment: Will there be restrictions on construction traffic e.g. the number of vehicles and the times they will be on site?

Mr Simpson confirmed that there will be restrictions.

Question/Comment: Will the school's name change?

Ms Claridge confirmed that this is something that would need to be discussed between the two schools.

Ms Eden thanked parents or attending the meeting and told them that if they had any further questions or comments they are welcome to discuss them with her at any time. The meeting was closed.

Meeting 2: Meeting for Staff and Governors (4:15pm Friday 15th January 2016)

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

It is proposed that Tiverton Primary School, a school for pupils aged 3-11 years with severe learning difficulties should be subject to the following changes:

1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 42 to 88. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School, welcomed staff and governors to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, Mr Bill Faults, Chair of Governors, Whitley Abbey Primary School, and Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School. Mr Barry Keegan, Minute Secretary, Business Services (Safeguarding), recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Mr Ashley Simpson played the Presentation video and explained the proposals. staff and governors asked the following questions:

Questions, Answers and Comments

Question/Comment: Will the new school be one-storey or two? If it has a pool, would children from Whitley Abbey able to use it?

Mr Simpson confirmed that the proposed new building will be one-storey and that the Alice Stevens building being two-storeys is part of what makes it unsuitable for the development. Regarding the use of facilities, this will be an operational matter to be agreed between the schools. It was noted that such facilities as hydrotherapy pools have a primary function of supporting children with disabilities. Ms Claridge noted that they would be happy to share such facilities if there were children present at Whitley Abbey Primary that would benefit from them. Ms Eden emphasised that the two schools will be looking at how they can support one another and work co-operatively.

Question/Comment: Will the new children be transported in? Will the schools have the same start and end times?

Ms Claridge stated that these discussions needed to take place. Ms Eden noted that this had been raised by the parents at Tiverton School and that Whitley Abbey's parents had also raised concerns about parking. Discussions will need to take place to ensure that the site is used well and safely.

Question/Comment: Will there be plenty of parking?

Mr Simpson confirmed there would be as much parking as possible, with planning regulations stating that it would be one space per two members of staff. The department will endeavour to provide as much parking space as possible.

Question/Comment: There are issues about the driveway being sufficiently lit

Mr Simpson noted that external lighting is a recurring theme in a lot of new schemes for school development and that it is something that will be closely looked at.

Question/Comment: For some time we've been thinking of changing some of the landscaping: is this a linked or separate issue?

Mr Simpson confirmed that this will be looked at as part of the designing process. The priority is to ensure the site is secure, but it was hoped that the new design would have less equipment like fencing.

Question/Comment: Could we consider a one-way system with a drop off point?

Mr Simpson noted that the issue of parking has been raised and options will be explored to address this. He noted that pick-up and drop-off zones have proven difficult to manage in places where they have been piloted. He reiterated that access to the site will be looked at.

Question/Comment: Will there be a higher proportion of vehicles for children in the new school?

Ms Claridge confirmed that a high number of Tiverton children arrive on mini-buses. One member of staff noted that Jaguar Land Rover is expanding and are unwilling to build their own car park and that this might lend credence to some of the suggestions to address the parking issues.

Question/Comment: How large will the nursery be?

There will be 26 full-time places, meaning that 52 children can attend part-time. The nursery will be a more formal provision.

Question/Comment: Will the nursery be a separate building or part of the 'Tiverton' building?

Mr Simpson confirmed that, at present, it is not planned for the nursery to be a separate building, as it seems the most natural way to link the two schools. Ms Applegarth emphasised the need to make the nursery as accessible as possible and to factor in safeguarding issues. This is being regularly reviewed as part of the larger goal of getting the best use from the site. One member of staff commented that the proposed development sounds very positive. Ms Applegarth noted that the school council had been very positive about the proposal in their discussion. Mr Simpson reiterated that he is aware of the considerable issues around parking and access.

Ms Eden thanked staff and governors or attending the meeting and told them that if they had any further questions or comments they are welcome to discuss them with her at any time. The meeting was closed.

Meeting 3: Meeting for the Community (5:00pm Friday 15th January 2016)

Consultation on Proposals to Change Tiverton School to a Generic Broad Spectrum Primary school and relocate it on to the former Alice Stevens Site, Ashington Grove, Whitley, Coventry, with effect from September 2017.

Proposals

It is proposed that Tiverton Primary School, a school for pupils aged 3-11 years with severe learning difficulties should be subject to the following changes:

1. It should be moved from Rowington Close, off Kingsbury Road, Coventry CV6 1PS to Ashington Grove, Coventry, CV3 4DE.
2. It should change its designation from a Community Special School (severe learning difficulties) to a Community Special School (Generic, Broad Spectrum). It is intended that the School will make provision for the following types of special educational needs: Moderate Learning Difficulty, Severe Learning Difficulty and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty.
3. It should increase its capacity from 42 to 88. In January 2015 there are 42 pupils at the school.

The proposal would specifically involve:

- Providing a new purpose built school building, following the complete demolition of the former Alice Stevens School building. This would require planning consent and the usual planning application procedure, including consultation would apply.
- Ensuring all the current Tiverton School pupils have a place in the new building.
- The formation of nursery provision for both Tiverton Primary and Whitley Abbey primary schools.

Ms Michaela Eden, Head Teacher, Whitley Abbey Primary School, welcomed residents to the meeting and introduced Mr Ashley Simpson, Head of Schools Capital Strategy and Premises Services, Ms Judith Applegarth, Assistant Programme Manager, Schools Capital Strategy & Premises Services, Mr Bill Faults, Chair of Governors, Whitley Abbey Primary School, and Ms Carolyn Claridge, Head Teacher, Tiverton School. Mr Barry Keegan, Minute Secretary, Business Services (Safeguarding), recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Mr Ashley Simpson played the Presentation video and explained the proposals. The residents asked the following questions:

Questions, Answers and Comments

One resident stated that it would seem unreasonable to object to the current development. However, he highlighted that there are major issues with parking, which had been raised during Whitley Abbey Primary's previous development. He feared that the decision to move Tiverton School had already been made and expressed his frustration at feeling that the residents are being ignored. He used the fact that their consultation had been provisionally booked as 30 minutes, rather than 45 minutes like the other consultations, as an example of this. He reiterated that traffic management is a major issue and that there is inadequate parking on site and on the road at present. He felt that this must be the primary focus to ensure road safety, traffic management and that the children's lives are safeguarded. He stated that there are residents who will not 'sit by' unless this issue had been addressed.

Mr Simpson emphasised that the proposed development is not a foregone conclusion, hence the consultation meetings. He also highlighted that parents, staff and school governors have all expressed concerns about congestion, traffic management and car parking and that it is clear that, at present, it is unacceptable. He stated that this issue clearly needed to be looked at as part of the proposal and that, whilst the issues might not be resolved overnight, there is the opportunity to address them and mitigate any further issues. Mr Simpson noted that the former Alice Steven's building will be demolished, with a smaller building for fewer pupils being built in its place. This provides opportunities to explore how best to use the rest of the site in a holistic manner and he noted that many people had suggested using it to mitigate the issues with parking and traffic.

One resident stated that the problems will only get worse, given the number of 'Tiverton' children who would be coming from outside the local area. They stated that, until the issue of traffic was addressed, it was a waste of time and money designing the new school.

Q. How many children will transfer?

Ms Claridge reported that 42 children attend Tiverton School, which utilises 3 mini-buses to bring most of them to the school. A lot of the children are transported in because Tiverton's catchment area is approximately half of Coventry. Mr Simpson noted that it had been suggested that the start and end times for the schools could be staggered to address some of the congestion issues. Ms Eden noted that this had been the arrangement with Alice Stevens.

Several residents repeated the point that it is a waste of time building the new school if the underlying infrastructure is not sound. They also felt that the current issues around parking and congestion will become worse. Mr Simpson acknowledged the issues caused by the Jaguar Land Rover development and insisted that solutions to the congestion problems will be looked at as part of the planning process. One resident stated that unless strict adherence to parking rules was policed continuously, any arrangements would become 'a joke'.

One resident reiterated that there are clear issues with access and expressed their disappointment that the issue was not dealt with. He noted that there had been a lack of communication from Whitley Abbey Primary during their previous development and stated that the lack of communication was 'staggeringly incompetent' and did not help the school's relationship with the wider community. He was in favour of the development, provided that the arrangements worked for residents. He noted that the number of mini-buses could double in line with a doubling of the number of pupils attending. He suggested that a new entrance could help to address some of the issues. Mr Simpson noted that this might not necessary address the issue and emphasised the need to create a comprehensive plan to address the current problems without creating new ones.

One resident stated that it would be good if the planning process displayed some 'joined up thinking'. He highlighted that the biggest issue with the current congestion problems is the danger posed to the children. Another resident also highlighted that this was particularly true for the nursery children who would be attending. One resident highlighted that a sizable number of the children end up walking in the road because of the parking problems. They stated that parents consistently park on double-yellow lines and block driveways. It was noted that this was a minority of parents but it was acknowledged that this causes health and safety issues.

Question/Comment: Under the proposals, the school has created a problem where traffic is building up outside the school gates. Where will the access be for the new school?

Mr Simpson stated that the design phase has not commenced yet and there is the potential to use the new grassy area to create solutions to this problem. One resident stated that there is a problem with congestion immediately around the school gates and that this would be exacerbated by the proposed development. Mr Simpson noted that a drop-off and pick-up site had been suggested. Whilst this has proven problematic in other schools, it is one of several options that need to be considered as part of the process.

Question/Comment: Will the site be a joint site or will it be two separate schools?

Ms Eden stated that no plans have been drawn up and that she and Ms Claridge saw this as an opportunity to work collaboratively to benefit all the children. The possibility of sharing facilities and expertise was highlighted.

Question/Comment: The facilities here (Whitley Abbey), do not suit disabled children: has it been looked at how children with disabilities can use facilities here?

Ms Eden stated that there are some accessibility aids and that, if the proposed development went ahead they would look to improve this. Ms Eden also highlighted that a traffic survey was conducted during the last development and that proposals were put in place. However, the closure of Alice Steven's school prevented those from being put in place. She highlighted that the staff are very aware of the issue of congestion, having expressed these concerns herself when the development was originally proposed. She stated that the school want to mitigate the issues as far as possible but that they are also excited about turning the derelict building into a child friendly site.

Question/Comment: Will there be set places for SEN children and Whitley Primary children at the nursery?

Mr Simpson confirmed there will be a small number of places reserved for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) but that the majority of the places will be for Whitley Primary children. He stated that this is because there is no formal Early Years provision in the area.

One resident stated that there are already two childcare providers in the area and felt that they were being dismissed. They asked how this was sustainable. Mr Simpson insisted that the existing provision was not being dismissed. Ms Eden also highlighted that Whitley Abbey's parents have wanted an on-site nursery for many years and that the school's governors have been committed to this for some time as well.

Ms Eden confirmed that the nursery will be run by both schools. Mr Simpson reported that the nursery will be funded through the Council via a specific scheme. One resident stated that a discussion would have to take place as to how much this development will cost and stated that they felt that whatever money or resources allocated to addressing the congestion should be ring-fenced.

Question/Comment: How many nursery places are there for children with disabilities in Coventry?

Ms Claridge confirmed that all current places for children with disabilities are full. A resident suggested that it might make more sense for the proposed nursery to cater primarily for children with disabilities, with any 'spare' places being filled by children in mainstream education. Ms Claridge highlighted that this is part of a larger SEN strategy. She stated that the staff at Tiverton are excited about the fact that this provision will be integrated and that the two schools will be working in partnership. She stressed that there will be benefits to both sets of pupils from the proposed development and that an integrated nursery would benefit both schools.

Question/Comment: I work in Riverbank and it is not necessarily geared towards broad spectrum SEN. Will you cover behavioural children?

Ms Claridge confirmed that children with behavioural issues might attend, but their attendance would primarily be around their having complex physical needs: any behavioural issues they had would, in a sense, be circumstantial to their attending.

Question/Comment: Will the nursery just be a nursery class?

Mr Simpson confirmed that this would be the case.

Question/Comment: Does the school have a green travel plan?

Ms Eden confirmed that the school does not have one at present, although there have been suggestions for such things as a walking bus service and parents have been willing to help arrange things of this nature.

Ms Eden thanked the residents or attending the meeting and told them that if they had any further questions or comments they are welcome to discuss them with her at any time. The meeting was closed.

Written responses to the Consultation

1) Whitley Abbey Pre-school

Dear Judith,

Staff from Whitley Pre-school attending the meeting regarding the amalgamation of Whitley abbey Primary School with Tiviton Primary on Friday 15th of January.

It was clear in the meeting that there was a major problem with the road and many residents have expressed their concerns.

There was reference to their being no formal early years education in the area which was extremely offensive as the pre-school has been their for 13 years and a previous 30 years before, during a Chat with the head teacher Miss Mikala Eden, she also stated that the nursery would only have places made 8 places for children with SEND and the other 52 would be children with no send, as a member of the meeting said, that looked like a school was using this of a way to build a non needed nursery and parading it as joint venture for Children with Special needs.

I have spoken with the head of tiny teddies and we both agree that we have the necessary early years child care within the small area of Whitley. It will probably wipe out both business, I can not speak for Tiny Teddies but I have 6 staff , who between us have 20 children we work to provide for them, we have close relationship with the school, having visits and being part of a CAF team.

If we close then the Community Church in the centre of Whitley will loose a valuable source of income, effecting the whole of the whitely area. Not to mention the jobs and security of all the staff concerned, My own child is disabled and I work around her needs , I have great respect for the schools and teachers that work with children with greater needs, but let the nursery be what is needed , a nursery for children with special needs,

This will have a major impact on a lot of lives.

Kind Regards

The Staff of Whitley Pre-school

2) Head Teacher of Sherbourne Fields School response

Further to School Business Manager's email to you last year regarding the future plans for Tiverton Primary School, I am writing to officially register my interest in taking over the Tiverton site as soon as it becomes available. Following the recent notice displayed by Tiverton (on behalf of the LA) informing parents/visitors notice of the schools intention to re-locate to what was previously the Alice Stevens site I believe this to be at the end of July 2017.

With the full support of Kirsten Nelson and Jeannette Essex, Sherbourne Fields has applied to become a Teaching School. We expect to find out within the next 8 weeks whether or not our application has been successful. With this in mind we would like to take over the site - which as you know is a shared site with Sherbourne Fields, in order to utilise the building to provide SEN training for both special and mainstream schools across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Sherbourne Fields as it stands today does not have the capacity to accommodate large groups for training or seminars. Previously we have had to re-locate our 6th Form students to another part of the school in order to set up the 6th Form Centre as a training facility. I am certain that we would be able to utilise and manage the site with our current resources and through possible funding streams such as trusts and foundations, charitable donations and grants.

There is a definite need for specialist SEN training to be available to employees in mainstream schools across Coventry and Warwickshire – now more than ever given the ever increasing number of students with special needs now placed in a mainstream setting. With this in mind I feel the Tiverton site would provide a practical solution for our future training plans.

I hope you will seriously consider this request and if you require any further clarification on the matter then please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Shivaun Duffy Moriarty
Headteacher

3) Governor Response to the Consultation on the rebuilding of Tiverton School

The proposal to rebuild Tiverton School has been in the “pipeline” for ten years. Historically there has been some reluctance to spend what would amount to large amounts of money on a “redundant” building.

- according to a recent survey the building is structurally sound, there are many issues with the condition of the building. The survey highlighted problem areas to be roof, windows, doors, electrical wiring, out dated water systems, inappropriate toilet arrangements.
- narrow corridors making it difficult for children and adults to move around.
- there are no “spare spaces” to install a wet room/ changing facilities.

Governors are reluctant to authorise expenditure on major remedial work to patch up the existing building and frankly both the children and staff deserve better than the “shabby conditions” they are currently experiencing.

- the proposals for the new school will enable the children of Tiverton School to have a twenty first century education in purpose built accommodation.
- This will provide opportunities to improve the specific learning environment for children on the autism spectrum.
- It could also extend the multi sensory educational opportunities offered to children through light rooms and soft play. Rebound Therapy and Hydrotherapy, that are currently provided by taking children to other schools resulting in lost time and extra journeys, could be made available within the new school building..
- the move will be an opportunity to upgrade IT systems to the latest specifications to support children’s learning.
- incorporating integral hoists around the building will make the task of moving children from wheelchairs / walkers easier for staff and help to improve the individual’s dignity.
- planned withdrawal spaces will support pupil’s with complex and special needs – the current building has few opportunities to address this.

Governors have attended many meetings over the last few years regarding the move toward introducing Broad Spectrum Education across Coventry.

- we have undertaken visits to other schools within the local area and in neighbouring authorities to see alternative practices for ourselves.
- we have liaised closely with staff at Tiverton to see how the changes would impact on their working practices and the implications for future planning of educational opportunities. This has enabled us to listen to misgivings as well as the positive implications associated with changes in working environments.
- we have met with governors at Whitley Primary to discuss how we would see the shared location developing to the benefit of both schools

These opportunities have informed our ideas on how we would like to see the new school evolve. Over the years we have listened to various proposals to co locate our school but these have faltered.

- An important aspect for governors and staff in choosing a new site has always been access to outdoor education for the children.
- Our present location within Coundon Wedge has lent itself to an outdoor curriculum and we, as governors, were anxious that this aspect of the children's education was maintained.
- In the Whitley site we see the opportunities to have a purpose built school in a wonderful, well established natural setting.
- The existing Forest School designation on part of the site would enhance environmental learning for both ourselves and Whitley Primary School.

Whilst broadly welcoming the proposed new built school we realise that there are some drawbacks to the proposal on behalf of the residents.

- traffic management is a major factor for them together with off- site parking.
- Adequate parking that allowed for visiting specialist staff was an issue highlighted to Ashley in both schools consultations.
- Transport issues were raised by parents – although existing children would be guaranteed places their journey times may increase significantly.
- There is also the potential for minibuses to have difficulty due to local traffic conditions. Access for mini buses was a possible issue.
- Dropping off points within the school site to minimise disruption to nearby residents.

Tiverton's governors would like some clarification on the proposed building of the shared nursery especially the budgetary implications of this facility. Who would be responsible for the maintenance and up keep? Previously we were led to believe that this was a separately funded facility but the latest meeting seemed to imply that an already tight budget would need to stretch to accommodate this project

On behalf of the governors at Tiverton School we hope that this proposal comes to a successful conclusion. This is an opportunity to give some of the city's most disadvantaged children a purpose built new school to enhance their educational opportunities while allowing the development independence and life skills.

As governors we would hope that, with ongoing goodwill from all parties, that the future school would take forward all the good educational practice and caring ethos that are evident in the current Tiverton School.

4) Staff response to the consultation on changes to Tiverton School

The staff group at Tiverton would like to make the following points for consideration as part of the pre-consultation process for changes to Tiverton School:

- We believe that the children at Tiverton School deserve a building which is fit for purpose and will afford them excellent opportunities for learning and wellbeing in a special designed, state of the art school. The current building does not afford some of the opportunities we would wish for our pupils because of its age, poor state of repair and limited size or scope for improvement.
- We would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with the Whitley Abbey Primary School community to provide the very best opportunities for all stakeholders within both schools on the Whitley campus. Our early meetings with Whitley Abbey Primary School have been very positive and there is a feeling of not simply being co-located but opportunities for collaboration and genuine partnership.
- We believe there are enormous benefits for both sets of pupils to be a part of an inclusive environment where the individual needs of each child are paramount. There is potential for two-way visits for pupils to the partner school as appropriate to need.
- The staff of Tiverton School have already started to formulate a vision for a new school, which would be crucial to share with a design team to inform the design and build of the school. We would welcome the opportunity of working with Whitley Abbey School and its community to formulate a shared vision for the campus.
- Our current mission statement is “Passionate about celebrating learning, enjoyment and achievement for all”, this epitomises our ethos and informs all that we do. We believe that a new school building, co-located in the right location and with the right partner school will enable us to deliver even greater outcomes for the pupils and families we serve.
- The potential availability of a wider range of opportunities on the proposed site would greatly enhance the experiences for all- including a hydrotherapy pool, good outdoor spaces for learning, designated rooms for some subjects and some multi-purpose rooms. There would also be opportunity for rooms that are appropriate for rebound therapy (using a trampoline- we cannot currently do this in school as the rooms are not sufficiently high) and the integrated use of state of the art technology embedded within the school. This would also include the opportunity for shared spaces with a partner mainstream school.
- We would welcome a school environment with sufficient storage so that areas are uncluttered and children can safely be maximally independent. This will also facilitate our total communication approaches within the learning environment which is crucial to the population of our school.
- Specifically designed spaces for the holistic needs of children to be met by a multidisciplinary team eg physio, nursing, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy etc would be hugely beneficial to pupils and staff.
- It would be beneficial to have meeting rooms so that families can be welcomed into school for events, meetings and training in rooms which are pleasant and allow for confidential discussion.
- In the event that the school building proceeds, we would wish to ensure that there is sufficient time between the school being ready to facilitate a comprehensive induction and transition process for pupils, some of whom will require extensive preparation and pre-visits before undergoing such a major move of location.

We acknowledge also the following areas of concern:

- Some families have chosen a local school so that they can transport their children to and from school themselves. The proposed site is on the opposite side of the city.
- We are aware that many parents are concerned about transport to and from school for their children. Those whose children are currently transported to and from school would wish to be reassured that this will continue in a relocated school site.
- Some parents have expressed a desire to know what would be the expected secondary school for their children to transfer to from a new school site.

- Many staff currently live and work in close proximity out of choice. There could be an implication for some staff having to travel to the other side of the city and also the possibility of losing some highly skilled staff who would not transfer to a relocated site.

Tiverton School Staff
January 2016

5) Response from Whitley Abbey Head Teacher

Dear Kirsten Nelson,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Mr and Mrs Sherriff who lease a house on the Whitley Abbey Primary School/Alice Stevens School site. Mr Sherriff is the Site Services Officer for Whitley Academy next door. This has been a longstanding agreement. Mr Sherriff oversees the site, as a good neighbour, at weekends because of his proximity to it.

Mr and Mrs Sherriff would like to know how the plans for the redevelopment of the Alice Stevens School site would affect them and what may happen to their home and the vacant SSO house on the site. They are concerned how the plans may affect their family. They would also like to be informed about any future works or demolition works to the Alice Stevens school site and the likely impact on their daily lives, given they are residents.

Kind regards,

Michaela Eden
Headteacher
Whitley Abbey Primary School

6) Response from Whitley Abbey Head Teacher

Dear Kirsten Nelson,

I am writing on behalf of the staff and governing body of Whitley Abbey Primary School. We would like to express that we are fully supportive of the proposal to relocate Tiverton School on the old Alice Stevens School site and are looking forward to collaborating with the Tiverton team to provide the very best education and care for children on this unique site. We view this as an exciting opportunity to build mutually rewarding partnerships on a primary campus at the heart of the local community.

We wholeheartedly welcome the prospect of having a shared purpose-built, high quality nursery on the site as we believe this will benefit the local community, raise aspirations and achieve better outcomes for all the children.

We are resolved to work with Coventry City Council and the Tiverton team to find the best possible solution to the traffic and parking issues raised in the pre-consultation meetings so that we are able to provide a safe, accessible, child-friendly campus that is considerate to our neighbours and benefits our local community.

Kind regards,

Michaela Eden
Headteacher
Whitley Abbey Primary School