

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### ITEM 7(c)

Title: Relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People and Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian Grayson

Report from Service Area: Fair Access and Commissioning

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Wards affected: Valley and Killingworth Wards

## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to consider the proposals to:

- (a) Expand and relocate Backworth Park Primary School to accommodate local increase in pupil population as a consequence of existing and newly approved residential developments.
- (b) Explore future use or disposal of the existing Backworth Park Primary School site as a consequence of the relocation of the school, outlined in (a) above.

### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) notes the pressures that will be placed upon primary provision in the area of West Shiremoor, Backworth, West Allotment and Holystone areas as a consequence of existing approvals of new housing developments and the increase in birth rate within the locality; and
- (b) approves the proposal to enter pre-publication consultation with the local schools, community and other interested parties in respect of the expansion of Backworth Park Primary School from a 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry school and the relocation of the school to a new site with effect from September 2016.

### 1.3 Forward Plan:

The report appears on the Forward Plan published 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The report relates to the Draft Council Plan – Our North Tyneside 2014 – 2018. Priority 1 – Our People Will – Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

The Authority's Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 9 October 2013, approved the outline planning application for the development of new residential accommodation and a new school building in the area known as West Shiremoor.

The Duke of Northumberland has been working for some time on proposals to develop land to the west of Shiremoor, east of the A19, to create 590 new homes and a site for the relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School, as a 1.5 form entry school.

Officers from the Authority have been working with the Duke of Northumberland in relation to the potential pupil yield from the approved housing developments and the impact thereon to the schools in the locality.

The birth rate within the Authority's area has risen in recent years, particularly in areas of high development, such as the Holystone and West Allotment areas. These areas are currently served by:

- Backworth Park Primary School – 1 form entry school (up to 210 pupils across 7 year groups)
- Holystone Primary School – 2 form entry school (up to 420 pupils across 7 year groups)
- Shiremoor Primary School – 2 form entry school (up to 420 pupils across 7 year groups)

In September 2012, there were more first choice applications for Holystone Primary School than the school would generally admit (78 applications for 60 places). The school agreed to allow a single year 'bulge' year group, allocating specialist curriculum space to increase the class bases from 14 to 15 spaces. This is not a solution that can work in future years, as the school has no additional physical capacity available for conversion.

As a general principle, it is accepted that primary schools in North Tyneside will not exceed 2 forms of entry, being 60 pupils per year group, on the basis of acceptable size of school, size of site and management of the delivery of education.

The formula calculation for pupil yield for new housing is assessed against the Audit Commissions calculation of 5 pupils per 100 houses across each mainstream year group.

In North Tyneside this formula has been adjusted to reflect:

- Dwellings of 3 plus bedrooms – 3.3 pupils per 100 houses across each mainstream year group.

- Dwellings of less than 3 bedrooms – 1.98 pupils per 100 houses across each mainstream year group.

The projected yield from housing is then compared against the local school capacity and pupil projections to identify any pressures that may be evident upon commencement of any new residential developments.

Based on the above formula, the calculation of the new developments indicated that there would be sufficient impact upon the local education community to require the addition of a single form of entry to serve the locality. Accordingly, Section 106 contributions were sought and approved as part of each planning application.

Of the local schools to the area, as indicated in 1.5.3 above, it was assessed that neither Shiremoor Primary School nor Holystone Primary School have either the ability to expand beyond 2 form entry based upon the Authority best practice or sufficient space within their sites to allow expansion.

Backworth Park Primary School is currently located within the village to the north of the Miners Welfare/Golf Club. The school has not benefitted from the increased pupil population in the locality as a result of recent housing developments. The school is small and does not have the benefit of a playing field or alternative suitable outdoor facilities. It was therefore determined that the most appropriate solution would be the relocation and expansion of the school.

### 1.5.2 Role of the Authority

The authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of good school places which:

- Enable children and young people to achieve high standards of educational excellence;
- Meets the needs of vulnerable learners;
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity; and
- Promote diversity and parental choice within an area.

### 1.5.3 Goals

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Authority should work collaboratively with schools to:

- Deliver a strong education system that will enable all children and young people to achieve their potential and develop the skills and attributes they need for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- Ensure that every child and young person in North Tyneside can attend a good school in which they experience excellent teaching and
- Realise the potential of education to equalise life chances and therefore to close the attainment gap for children and young people who face social and economic disadvantage.

#### 1.5.4 Timescales and Project Management

The landowner is currently seeking to appoint developers to the land and it is anticipated that works on the sites will commence within the coming year, with an expected build out of 60 dwellings per year.

As a new build solution, it has been agreed that the new school facilities should be delivered early in the development, both to enable the early relocation of the school and also act as focal point of the whole development. It is therefore proposed to provide the new accommodation for occupancy with effect from September 2016.

#### 1.6 **Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

##### Option 1

Formally receive the report and agree to all of the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

##### Option 2

Formally receive the report but decline to agree with its recommendations.

Option 1 is the recommended option

#### 1.7 **Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended as it allows the Local authority to commence a pre-publication consultation surrounding the proposals for this development.

#### 1.8 **Appendices:**

None.

#### 1.9 **Contact officers:**

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Iain Betham, Senior Manager – Capital Planning and Fair Access, tel. (0191) 643 8092  
Rachael Coyne, Manager - School Organisation and Investment, tel. (0191) 643 8074  
Anthony Gollings, Finance Business Manager supporting Children, Young People and Learning and Finance and Resources, tel. (0191) 643 8071

#### 1.10 **Background information:**

None

### **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

#### 2.1 **Finance and other resources**

The proposal would bring together previously secured Section 106 funding from developments in the locality, specifically Scaffold Hill (Primary Contribution - £1,470,150) and North Ridge, Wellfield (£840,000), with £1,637,500 contribution towards Primary

education from the West Shiremoor from the existing proposal. This would secure a total funding envelope of approximately £3.9m to support the new school proposals.

The revenue costs of this proposed change in school provision will be captured within the Dedicated Schools grant (or any future version there of) and therefore have no general fund implications

## **2.2 Legal**

The Authority is required to secure (so far as its powers enable it to do so) that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population of the area (s.13 Education Act 1996). It must promote high standards and ensure fair access to educational opportunity (s.13A Education Act 1996). If, following the review, changes to schools are proposed, it will be necessary to comply with the relevant legislation pertaining to all proposed changes.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning has been fully consulted in relation to the proposals.

### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

Consultation has been undertaken with the local schools and their Governing Bodies.

In addition, for Cabinet's information, the relevant statutory consultees have been consulted pursuant to the formal Planning Process.

## **2.4 Human rights**

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

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report. However, should the projects proceed further; Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for the project.

## **2.6 Risk management**

Any risks to the provision of education in the borough identified as part of the review will be monitored and appropriate steps will be taken to safeguard against those risks.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability issues directly arising from this report. However, the design of the proposed new school will be developed should the final approval be given to relocate Backworth Park Primary School. Achieving long term

carbon emission savings will be a key principle within the process and the developer (once appointed) will present options for the most energy efficient design model.

### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Strategic Manager, Policy Partnership, Performance and Communication  X

### **Report authors:**

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