

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

7 April 2014

ITEM 6(f)

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: **Commissioning and Fair Access**

Report Author: **Mark Longstaff, Head of
Commissioning and Fair Access**

Tel: (0191) 643 8089

Wards affected: **Valley and Killingworth Wards**

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

Following agreement by Cabinet at the meeting held on 11 November 2013 (minute CAB124/11/13 refers), the purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of the outcomes of pre-publication stage of the agreed consultation and to consider the next steps of the consultation process.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) notes the outcome of the pre-publication consultation exercise undertaken with interested parties in the locality of Backworth Park Primary School; and
- (b) approves the proposal to enter a period of formal statutory consultation, as described within Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 10 March 2014.

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

Following Cabinet's approval at its meeting on 11 November 2013 to proceed to pre-publication consultation stage, the Authority entered a period of consultation with the following sectors:

- Ward Councillors of Both Valley and Killingworth Wards;
- Governing Body, Staff and Parents of Backworth park Primary School;
- Governing Body of Holystone Primary School and Shiremoor Primary School, being the immediate neighbours of Backworth Park Primary School;
- Primary schools within two miles of Backworth Park Primary School, including those within the borough of Northumberland; (Shown at Annexe A)and
- Valley Ward Community Conversation.

1.5.2 Outcome of the Consultation Process.

Many of the events were well attended and the proposals well received. The majority of respondents are in favour of the proposal. A summary of the responses is attached at Annexe B.

Though there were no formal objections to the proposals, some concern has been expressed by the Governing Bodies and Head Teachers of Holystone Primary School and Shiremoor Primary School, with regard to the following:

Shiremoor Primary:

Shiremoor Primary School is a well established and successful school. However, it is located within a well established and ageing estate. The school has expressed concern that the increased capacity in the area, in proximity to the newer and 'more affluent' estates will encourage parents of pupils in their catchment to seek education in the new premises. A request to have the existing catchment areas redrawn was made.

Holystone Primary:

The school has no formal objection to the proposals, however, the Governing Body continues to express concern as to how the Authority and the school can manage the existing and future demand for places at Holystone Primary school. This is in particular reference from the existing catchment for the school and from the proposed developments at Lime Gardens and Scaffold Hill.

Local Authority response.

There is currently sufficient capacity within the areas of Shiremoor, Backworth and Holystone to meet the current demand for places. The admission to the new accommodation at Backworth Park Primary will be managed to ensure, as far as possible, that there is no de-stabilising impact upon neighbouring schools, and that the increased capacity is developed timely to the establishment of the new housing development, for which it is proposed.

The application of Catchment areas is used as an oversubscription tool within the Admissions Arrangements for maintained schools. Parents have the right to apply for any school of their choice and the Admissions Authority must allocate places against the published criteria, up to the Published Admission Number of each school.

The Authority will continue to work with each of the schools within the area to ensure that all receive equal support and promotion within the development areas. There are currently no plans to redraw the catchment areas, though this may be considered into the future, via the annual round of formal consultation on the Admissions Arrangements.

1.5.4 Statutory Consultation Details.

A statutory proposal of this nature requires being posted for a period of 6 weeks and publicly available for comment. The period should avoid, as far as is possible, school holiday periods. It is anticipated therefore that should Cabinet approve the recommendations detailed at section 1.2 of this report, a formal public notice would be posted during week commencing Tuesday 22 April 2014 and sit for a period of 6 weeks, ending Tuesday 3 June 2014 (27 – 30 May 2014 being half term holiday week).

The statutory notice is required to consult upon the significant enlargement of Backworth Park Primary school from 1 form entry with up to 210 pupils to 1.5 form entry with up to 315 pupils. The notice will also make reference to the relocation of the school; however, given that the proposed site is within 2 miles of the existing school site, and that site is incapable of supporting the significant enlargement, there is no obligation to formally consult upon this element of the proposals.

Following the formal statutory consultation period, a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in July 2014 detailing the outcomes of this exercise.

In addition, given the agreed Section 106 planning obligation contributions for the development of the Scaffold Hill and West Shiremoor (now known as Backworth Park), it is now anticipated that the development of the new school building will be timely to an occupation commencing September 2017.

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 Authority to plan to address the likely capacity issues within the vicinity of Backworth Park Primary School as a consequence of the establishment of new housing developments.

1.8 Appendices:

Annexe 1 – Summary of consultation responses.

1.9 Contact officers:

Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Fair Access, tel. (0191) 643 8092
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:

Cabinet report dated 11 November 2013 – Relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School. [Link to Report](#)

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 there are 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 is proposed, it will be necessary to comply with the relevant legislation pertaining to all proposed changes.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the regulations made under that Act in relation to responsibility for functions, Cabinet is responsible for determining this matter.

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. as set out in section 1.5.1 of this report

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
- Deputy Chief Executive X
- Strategic Director(s) 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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Iain Betham, Senior Manager – Capital Planning and Fair Access
Rachael Coyne, Manager – School Organisation and Investment

First and Primary Schools within two miles of Backworth Park Primary

North Tyneside Schools

Amberley Primary
South Wellfield First
Bailey Green Primary
St Mary's, Forest Hall, Primary
Ivy Road Primary
Forest Hall Primary
Westmoor Primary
Hadrian Park Primary.

Northumberland Schools

Holywell First School
Seaton Delaval First School
Seghill First School