



North Tyneside Council

**Relocation and Enlargement of the premises of a school
Proposal to expand Backworth Park Primary School by a half form of entry (15
additional places each year)**

1. Proposer – Local education authority details

392 – The Council of the Borough of North Tyneside. North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY.

2. The name, address and category of the school

392/2032 - Backworth Park Primary School. The Park, Station Road, Backworth, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE27 0AH. Community School

3. Description of the proposed alteration

It is proposed that with effect from the September 2017 reception class intake, the school should be increased in size from taking 30 pupils per year to one and a half forms of entry; therefore its published admission number should permanently increase from 30 to 45. The proposed admission number will apply in reception years only, subsequently, until full roll out.

4. Evidence of need or demand for additional places

The area is currently served by three primary schools. Backworth Park Primary School and two 2 form entry primary schools. Recent Planning approvals for two housing developments in the locality, with a total of 1040 dwellings have raised concerns as to the local capacity to meet projected demand. Projected pupil numbers for the developments, together with the projections for pupils already within the system indicate that there are currently insufficient places to meet the existing demand, and that created by the new developments. An estimate of 231 additional primary aged pupils will be introduced to the system over the life of the developments. (5+ years, commencing 2015)

The table below shows the pupil projections across the area, including the anticipated demand from New Housing.

		2013/1	2014/1	2015/1	2016/1	2017/1	2018/1
	Capacity	4	5	6	7	8	9
Backworth Park Primary	180	106	100	96	90	89	89
Holystone Primary	420	430	438	446	451	454	459
Shiremoor Primary	418	355	370	372	379	377	383
Total number of pupils (R - Y6)	1,018	891	908	914	920	921	932
	Projected Surplus capacity	127	110	104	98	97	86
Proposed total capacity	1,123 (1,018 + 105, being 7 year groups of 15 additional places)						
Pupils from Housing Developments				46	92	139	185
Revised total pupil projections	Including Housing	891	908	960	1,012	1,059	1,117

Backworth Park Primary School occupies a confined site with no access to playing fields. The proposal includes for the relocation of the school to a new site within the 'West Shiremoor' Development site. The proposed site is within two miles of the existing site and therefore not subject to statutory consultation.

5. Objectives of the proposal and educational standards

The objective of this proposal is to provide additional school places within the locality of the new development sites and brings Backworth Park Primary school closer to the centre of their populated catchment area. The relocation will enable Backworth Park Primary School, which is a good school (Ofsted – December 2013) to continue to deliver a good standard of primary education within its existing catchment, and deliver to the new development areas. The relocation of the site will enable the school to enhance the PE curriculum opportunities, benefitting from a playing field of suitable size and flexibility for a school of that age range.

The proposal to expand Backworth Park Primary School, if approved, will:

- Help ensure that there are sufficient places in the area to meet demand;
- Promote high educational standards;
- Ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and
- Promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The enlargement of the school will provide an opportunity to recruit a broader level of expertise and specialism within its staff which will in turn enable the continuation of the raising of standards and enhance teaching and learning that would enable children to make excellent progress.

6. Effect on other Education establishments in the area

Consultation has been undertaken within the primary schools within a two mile radius and with local community partners and residents.

Many of the events were well attended and the proposals well received. The majority of respondents are in favour of the proposal.

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.

7. Project costs, including how long term value for money will be achieved

It is proposed that the development will be procured via the landowner and funding will be via agreed Section 106 contributions for the developments in question and other similar agreements for other developments.

Project projections indicate that the development will cost in the region of £3.9m (Three million, nine hundred thousand). Approval of this proposal would require this funding commitment to be included within the Capital Plan, and incorporated within any Decision Making recommendations.

8. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The school has a current capacity of 180 with 104 on roll (Jan 2014). There is sufficient capacity within the school to admit up to its capacity up to the academic year 2015/2016. The new school will occupy a site capable of expansion to 2 form entry (to allow for any future, currently unknown demands, which would be subject to a separate proposal) and built to a physical capacity of 315. The site will be complete for occupancy no later than September 2017, timely to the construction programmes of the approved residential developments.

9. Procedure for responding to this proposal

Any person wishing to submit any comments either in support of, or objection to the proposal may do so by sending them to:

Head of Commissioning and Fair Access,
Commissioning and Fair Access,
North Tyneside Council, Quadrant,
The Silverlink North,
Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside,
NE27 0BY

or by e-mailing educationcapitalteam@northtyneside.gov.uk

Any objections or comments must be received on or before 1700hrs on 29th May 2014.