

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 14 July 2014

ITEM 7(h)

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

Responsible Officer: 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 its meeting held on 7 April 2014 (minute CAB222/04/14 refers), the purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the Formal Statutory Consultation process in relation to the relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) notes the outcome of the Statutory Consultation exercise undertaken with interested parties in the locality of Backworth Park Primary School;
- (b) approves the proposal to relocate and expand Backworth Park Primary School to a new location within the development to be known as Backworth Park (West Shiremoor); and
- (c) delegates authority to the Head of Environment and Leisure in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Chief Executive and Head of Law and Governance to negotiate and agree the form of lease and other arrangements for the new site and property.

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 27 May 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

The report relates to the 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.

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.

As a new build solution, it has been agreed that the new school facilities should be delivered early in the development. This will enable the early relocation of the school and also act as focal point of the whole development as well as being able to provide pupils with enhanced curriculum opportunities within new purpose-built accommodation and grounds. The new school will be developed for occupancy with effect from September 2016.

Following Cabinet's approval at its meeting on 7 April 2014 minute (CAB222/04/14 refers) to proceed to Formal Statutory Consultation in relation to the relocation and expansion of Backworth Park Primary School, the Authority entered a period of consultation. Consultation was undertaken for 28 days, between 1 – 28 May 2014, via the publication of Statutory Notices as follows:

1. on the Council's Website;
2. in The Journal on 1 May 2014; and
3. advertised on the gates and Reception lobby of Backworth Park Primary School.

In addition, copies of the notices were sent to the following interested parties:

1. Primary Schools within two miles of Backworth Park Primary School;
2. Ward Members of Valley and Killingworth Wards;
3. Mr Alan Campbell, MP for Tynemouth;
4. Mrs Mary Glendon, MP for North Tyneside;
5. Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle (Roman Catholic);
6. Church of England Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle; and
7. Association Secretaries / Union Representatives.

The Statutory Notice is attached at Appendix A and the Full proposals at Appendix B.

1.5.2 Comments received during the statutory period.

Three formal responses were received:

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have lodged objections to the proposals on the basis that the proposed expansion is within the parish of St Edmunds, which is served by Star of the Sea Roman Catholic (RC) Voluntary Aided (VA) Primary School in Whitley Bay, and therefore the area is not served by three schools, as indicated within section 4 of the Complete Proposals (Appendix B), but four.

The second concern relates to the potential impact upon the number on roll at Star of the Sea RC VA Primary School.

Response provided by Head of Commissioning and Fair Access:

The principle aim of the consultation exercise was to identify the likely pupil yield from new housing in the direct vicinity. It is general practice to consult with primary schools within a 2 mile radius of the Proposal school, though this is no longer stipulated in guidance; Star of the Sea RC VA Primary is located off Seatonville Road, in Monkseaton, 2.7 miles from Backworth Primary.

Star of the Sea RC VA Primary School serves a wide parish area, including Whitley Bay, Monkseaton, Shiremoor, Backworth and Holystone. The school has consistently admitted up to its admission number and currently holds less than 3% surplus places. Within its current cohort, approximately 10% are resident within the Shiremoor, Backworth and Holystone school catchments. Though the school has indicated a small decline in the admissions to school in September 2014, the Authority's projections do not indicate that this is likely to be repeated into the future, it is not possible to determine the level of denominational demand from residents new to the community.

As there are approximately 1600 new dwellings with planning permission in the locality, (outlined at Appendix C) with a potential primary age pupil yield of over 350 in the next 10 years, the proposed increase in primary capacity of 105 is not likely to adversely affect numbers on roll at Star of the Sea RC VA Primary School. Discussions have been held with the Headteacher of the school and, as with all schools in the area, promotional materials will be available within Sales offices of the planned developments.

Shiremoor Primary.

The Governing Body of Shiremoor Primary School has expressed concern regarding the following points:

- Request to redraw the catchment boundaries to ensure that the distribution of pupils from the new developments serve each school equally;
- the school questioned why their school could not be extended to provide the additional capacity; and
- Requested assurances that the new building will be built to 1 form entry, with later expansion to 1.5 form entry to prevent drift from Shiremoor Primary.

Response provided by Head of Commissioning and Fair Access

The application of catchment areas is an 'oversubscription tool' within the Admissions Arrangements within North Tyneside. There are currently 484 Primary aged pupils living in Shiremoor Catchment area, with 255 of those pupils attending Shiremoor Primary. The school has a capacity of 420 and currently has 355 pupils on roll. The school is admitting 57 into reception in 2014. (Catchment area map is included at Appendix D)

As a planning principle, the Authority seeks to maintain a maximum to the size of primary school provision across the Authority's area and seeks to maintain that level at no more than 420 places, equal to the current capacity at Shiremoor Primary. The existing site area is in the region of 16,000 sq m, which is within the range of the current building bulletin guidelines for a school of that size. The site is not large enough to expand to provide an additional half or full form of entry, which would require the expansion of buildings and subsequent loss of external play space / yard.

The proposed development will be built as a 1.5 form entry building, as the most economical solution, given the financial resources available. The proposed new school will however, only admit to the new higher number of 45 from September 2017, for reception years only and therefore not admit above its existing Published Admission number of 30, in existing older year groups.

Backworth Park Primary

'Staff and Governors believe that the proposal to enlarge the capacity to a 1.5 form entry Primary school will ensure that Backworth Park's facilities are fit for purpose, and afford exciting capacity to provide its pupils with enhanced curriculum opportunities within new purpose-built accommodation and grounds. Therefore, we give our full support to the proposal'.

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.

A copy of the Decision makers guide is available at Appendix E.

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. The proposal allows for the relocation away from the existing site, which is confined and lacking in external play and has no

playing field provision. The new site will provide sufficient space to allow the school to expand into the future, should demand increase.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix A – Statutory Notice

Appendix B – Full published proposals

Appendix C – Summary of outstanding permitted developments

Appendix D – Map of catchment areas and major development sites.

Appendix E – School Organisation, Maintained Schools, Annex B: Guidance for Decision – makers (Department for Education publication)

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

Cabinet report dated 7th April 2014 – 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), North Ridge, Wellfield (£840,000), with £1,637,500 contribution towards Primary education from the West Shiremoor development. This would secure a total funding envelope of approximately £3.9m to support the new school proposals. Additional funding will be provided via the schools Education Maintenance Capital Allocation, if required.

The indicative costs of the project are £4.0m and will go forward as a bid for inclusion on the Investment Plan as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process and as such be subject to the usual cabinet and Council approvals prior to being added to the plan.

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 (section 13 Education Act 1996). It must promote high standards and ensure fair access to educational opportunity (section 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.

Section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Authority to purchase land for any purpose connected to the Authority's functions.

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.

The landowner will develop and build the school, upon practical completion the land and buildings shall be transferred to the Authority. The terms of the land transfer will be considered and approved by the Strategic Property Group to ensure this represents value for money for the Authority.

A robust agreement will be in place with the developer to ensure the Authority obtains all necessary warranties from the building contractor.

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

Outlined in section 1.5.1

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. The proposal seeks to relocate and expand existing provision. Parents of pupils were consulted as part of the pre-publication consultation process in February 2014.

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

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager–
Strategic Services

Report authors:

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