



Derby City Council

CABINET REPORT 4 October 2017

ITEM 9

Report of the Cabinet Member for Education
and Skills

Proposal to increase school places at Murray Park School

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council is legally required to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for those pupils residing in its administrative boundary. There is an increasing demand for secondary school places in Derby following a significant level of growth in primary school numbers. Additional secondary places are needed at a number of schools in the city in order to respond to this growth.
- 1.2 A proposal has been developed to provide additional secondary pupil places at Murray Park School. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 220 up to a maximum of 330 from September 2019, with an additional 550 places available across the school on a phased basis, starting from year 7.
- 1.3 In terms of capital funding for the proposals to expand the premises of Murray Park School, Council Cabinet, at its meeting on 21 June 2017, approved basic need funding of £8.5 million to increase accommodation at the school, subject to completion of statutory consultation. The Headteacher and Governing Body support the expansion proposals.
- 1.4 Following Council Cabinet approval on 21 June 2017, initial consultation on the proposal to expand Murray Park School took place for a six-week period between 4 July 2017 and 15 August 2017. A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.5 A total of 29 responses were received during the consultation period, as summarised in the table below:

Category of response	I support the proposal	I'm undecided about the proposal	I don't support the proposal	View of the proposal not stated	Total
Parent	4	0	1	0	5
Staff	1	0	0	0	1
Parent and local resident	0	3	0	0	3
Sub-total	5	3	1	0	9
Local resident	3	2	9	6	20
Total	8	5	10	6	29

The majority (56%) of staff and parents who responded supported the expansion

proposal, while 33% were undecided on the proposal.

Of the 29 responses received, 20 were from local residents with no other connection to the school and were focussed on traffic and planning issues, rather than the educational aspects that this consultation was intended to address. These responses are shown separately and will be passed to Development Control for consideration alongside the planning application for the proposed expansion of the school's buildings related to this proposal.

- 1.6 In view of the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, this report recommends that Council Cabinet considers giving approval to move to the next stage of the consultation process, which involves the publication of a statutory notice and a further four week representation period.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal to permanently expand the premises of Murray Park School in order to provide additional secondary school places.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to determine the proposal to the Strategic Director of People Services if no objections are received and, if objections are received, to bring a further report to Council Cabinet for a decision.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council has a legal duty to ensure sufficient school places for those pupils residing within its administrative boundary. Pupil numbers and projections are closely monitored and proposals are carefully developed to ensure sufficient school places.
- 3.2 Without the proposed expansion, there is a significant risk that the Council will not be able to deliver its statutory duty to provide sufficient secondary school places.



Derby City Council

CABINET REPORT 4 October 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for People Services

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council is legally required to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for those pupils residing in its administrative boundary. There is an increasing demand for secondary school places in Derby following a significant level of growth in primary school numbers. Additional secondary places are needed at a number of schools in the city in order to respond to this growth. This expansion is not as a result of proposed new housing developments in Mickleover area, but relates increased primary numbers in recent years transitioning to secondary education from September 2019. The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient secondary school places.
- 4.2 A proposal has been developed to provide additional secondary pupil places at Murray Park School. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 220 up to a maximum of 330 from September 2019. The higher admission number would then move through the school gradually, year by year, until reaching all year groups. This means that there could eventually be an additional 550 places available across the school.
- 4.3 Following growth in primary pupil numbers in recent years, Derby City Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places. In doing so, the Council has considered school sizes and where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place. As Murray Park School is currently relatively small, when compared with the majority of other City secondary schools, there is therefore scope for expansion without the school becoming overly large. Murray Park School's current capacity is 1,100 places and the proposed expansion would increase the capacity to a maximum of 1,650.
- 4.4 Following Council Cabinet approval on 21 June 2017, initial consultation on the proposal to expand Murray Park School took place for a six-week period between 4 July 2017 and 15 August 2017. A copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.5 A total of 29 responses were received during the consultation period, as summarised in the table below:

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The majority (56%) of staff and parents who responded supported the expansion proposal, while 33% were undecided on the proposal.

Of the 29 responses received, 20 were from local residents with no other connection to the school and were focussed on traffic and planning issues, rather than the educational aspects that the consultation was intended to address. These responses are shown separately and will be passed to Development Control for consideration alongside comments on the planning application for the proposed expansion of the school's buildings related to this proposal. Appendix 3 provides further information on the consultation responses.

- 4.6 In view of the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places, this report recommends that the proposal to permanently expand the school should proceed to the next stage of the statutory consultation process, which includes the publication of a statutory notice.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Very careful consideration has been given to options for accommodating pupil growth. School place planning proposals have been developed with a view to creating additional capacity across a number of schools. This is to ensure a spread of additional school places across the City as a whole. In developing proposals, a range of factors have been considered, including whether school sites can accommodate expansion.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Emily Feenan, Principal Lawyer, Legal Services
Financial officer	Alison Parkin, Head of Finance (CYP)
Human Resources officer	None
Estates/Property officer	None
Service Director(s)	Gurmail Nizzer, Acting Director for Commissioning
Other(s)	Pauline Anderson, Acting Director for Learning and Skills

For more information contact:	Gurmail Nizzer, Acting Director for Commissioning 01332 642720. E-mail: gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Draft Consultation Document Appendix 3 – Summary of Consultation Responses

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 In terms of capital funding for the proposals to expand the premises of Murray Park School, Council Cabinet, at a meeting on 21 June 2017, approved funding of £8.5 million to increase secondary phase accommodation at the school.
- 1.2 Additional revenue funding as a result of the increase in pupil numbers will be derived from the Schools Funding Formula. A Growth Fund exists to support schools with increased pupil numbers, subject to meeting approved criteria.

Legal

- 2.1 Each local authority with responsibility for education has to secure sufficient primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of their area, under s.13 Education Act 1996.
- 2.2 Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, local authorities must carry out a statutory process on proposals to enlarge the premises of a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is the lesser). The process involves publication of a notice, consultation and consideration of the responses received.

Personnel

- 3.1 None for consideration.

IT

- 4.1 None for consideration.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None for consideration.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None for consideration.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 All school capital programme schemes are carried out in line with the latest Building Regulations on environmental performance.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None for consideration. The proposal is to extend a school on its existing site.

Risk Management

- 9.1 In providing the additional capacity the Council is reducing any potential risks associated with its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. Schemes will be development in line with the Council's project and risk management strategies.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 This report supports the Council priority outcome of 'Enabling individuals and communities, and Raising achievement and skills'.



Derby City Council

Consultation Period: Tuesday 4 July 2017 to Tuesday 15 August 2017

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park Community School

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Derby City Council is consulting on proposals to permanently increase the size and admission number of Murray Park School, Murray Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9LL.
- 1.2 This proposal document tells you the reasons for our proposal and how the decision making process works. Please take time to read through the document and let us know your views and comments on the attached Response Form. The closing date for responses is Tuesday 15 August 2017. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 There is an increasing demand for secondary school places in Derby, following a significant level of growth in primary school numbers. Additional secondary places are now required at Murray Park, and a number of other schools in the city, in order to respond to this growth.
- 2.2 Murray Park School currently has an admission number of 220, giving a capacity of 1,100 places across Year Groups 7-11. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 220 up to a maximum of 330 from September 2019. The higher admission number would then move through the school gradually, year by year, until reaching all year groups. This means that there could eventually be an additional 550 places available across the school.
- 2.3 There are no proposals to make any changes to school catchment areas as a result of the proposal.

3.0 Reason for the Proposals

- 3.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to make sure that there are enough school places available to meet local needs. The Council also has a duty to increase the scope for parental choice in planning for and securing school places. The Council's aim is for parents to be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this cannot always be guaranteed.
- 3.2 The reason for the proposal to increase the size and admission number of Murray Park School is to respond to growing secondary school pupil numbers.
- 3.3 With regard to the proposal to increase secondary school pupil places, following growth in primary pupil numbers in recent years, the Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places from September 2017, September 2018 and September 2019. In doing so, the Council has considered school sizes and where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place. As Murray Park School is relatively small compared with most other City secondary schools, it is possible to consider a significant expansion. This proposal has been developed in very close consultation with the school.

4.0 Capital Funding: School Places

- 4.1 In response to increasing pupil numbers, the Council has been allocated 'basic need' capital funding to create additional school places.
- 4.2 At a meeting on 21 June 2017, Derby City Council approved funding of £8.5 million to increase accommodation at Murray Park School. The proposal can be implemented on the current school site.
- 4.5 If the proposal goes ahead, we will work closely with the school to provide extra accommodation and to minimise any disruption that could be caused by the building work. This is an exciting opportunity for the school. Larger schools have the ability to offer a wider curriculum and a greater range of opportunities to all pupils.

5.0 When will the proposed school expansion take place?

- 5.1 If approved, an increased admission number will be introduced from September 2019. The proposal is to increase the admission number of the school on a gradual basis up to a maximum admission number of 330. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be monitored and reviewed, liaising closely with the school over the phasing of the opening of the places.
- 5.2 The proposal is for an increased admission number to gradually feed through the school until reaching all year groups.

6.0 What are the views of Headteacher and Governors?

- 6.1 Murray Park School has given its support to the proposal to increase pupil places.

7.0 What are the implications for teaching staff?

- 7.1 School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers. So, if there is an increase in numbers at the schools, the extra pupils will result in increased funding for the schools to employ the extra staff they need.

8.0 Will there be an impact on other schools?

- 8.1 School expansion requires careful consideration and needs to be seen in the context of school places in the wider area. Our proposal to increase the number of pupil places at Murray Park School relates to a significant increase in demand for secondary places. There are no proposals to change school catchment areas.

9.0 How can I get more information on the proposal?

- 9.1 We are very interested in your views and comments on our proposal. Please respond to us by using the Consultation Response Form. Should you wish to discuss any specific aspects of this proposal, please contact:

School Organisation and Provision Team,
Derby City Council,
Telephone: 01332 642723
Email: yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk

- 9.2 A drop in meeting for parents has been arranged for Tuesday 11 July 2017 from 4pm to 6pm, in the Cedar Park Hall at Murray Park School. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss the expansion proposals, view the plans for the new accommodation proposed for the school and express their views.

10.0 Let us have your views

- 10.1 Your views are very important. Please do let us know what you think and whether you agree or disagree with the proposal by Tuesday 15 August 2017. You can make your views known in the following ways:

- by completing the attached Consultation Response Form and returning it to us at the address provided at the end of the questionnaire
- by using the online consultation response form at www.derby.gov.uk/murraypark
- by sending an e-mail to yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk

11.0 What are the next steps?

- 11.1 Local Authorities need to consult and publish a public notice on proposals to expand the premises of a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is less). If the proposal is to proceed, this would be the next step for the Murray Park expansion proposal. Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposals to increase pupil places at Murray Park.
- 11.2 After the closing date, we will gather all the responses that we have received and report them to the Council Cabinet. Consideration will be given to the responses and a decision will be taken on the proposals. If the decision is to continue with the proposal, a public notice will be published and there will be a

further four week statutory consultation period in October/November 2017.
We anticipate that a final decision would then be taken by December 2017.

Proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park School

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

We are very interested in your views and comments on this proposal. Please use this form to let us have your views. (Please use extra sheets if you wish).

Do you support the Council's proposal to increase pupil places at Murray Park School as shown in the consultation document?

I support the proposal. ☐

I don't support the proposal. ☐

I'm undecided about the proposal ☐

Please give us any comments here

Date.....

Relationship to the school.....

For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other (please specify if other)

Please return your response form to:

School Organisation and Provision Team, Derby City Council, The Council House,
Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS

or email your comments to yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk

by **Tuesday 15 August 2017**



All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will only use this information to help in the decisions made on the proposed expansion of Murray Park School.

Appendix 3

Summary of Consultation Responses

Proposals to increase pupil places at Murray Park School

The table below sets out a summary of consultation responses:

Category of response	I support the proposal	I'm undecided about the proposal	I don't support the proposal	View of the proposal not stated	Total
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The key comments made in relation to the proposed school expansion are summarised below:

- We support the proposal as long a funding is provided to improve the buildings, facilities and education provision and the catchment area is secured
- The school has provided a secure and friendly environment for my daughter and I would like the same for my son
- The behaviour management should continue to be as good as it is now
- My daughter, currently at primary school, will benefit from the new building

The following issues were raised in relation to the proposal:

Increase in the size of the school

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
An increase of one third is too great for the school to manage and retain its ethos	The Council is working with a number of secondary schools to increase places from September 2017, September 2018 and September 2019. In doing so, the Council has carefully considered school sizes and
An increase in roll to 260 should be the maximum considered	

An outstanding school should be expanded instead, where the impact will be less and the distraction of expansion can be absorbed better	<p>where growth in primary pupil numbers has taken place and planned expansion at schools in different areas of the city.</p> <p>As Murray Park School is relatively small compared with most other City secondary schools, it is possible to consider a significant expansion. This proposal has been developed in very close consultation with the school. A number of schools in the city already have admission numbers close to 300 and are unable to expand further due to site constraints.</p> <p>The proposed expansion does have potential benefits to the school community, as larger schools have the ability to offer a wider curriculum and a greater range of opportunities to all pupils.</p>
The city needs to really think about what is best for the school, its students and the entire city	

School management

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
The school has sent home a letter about the possible merger of Murray Park and Littleover schools into an academy – how will this proposal affect the future expansion? If the City Council is committing £8.5 million then surely the City should retain control and ownership of the school well into the future.	<p>Murray Park School and Littleover Community School have recently carried out consultations on the possibility of converting to academy status. One option being considered is the formation of a Multi Academy Trust including both schools.</p> <p>The Council's school place planning duties cover all schools, including academies.</p>
Will we get a sixth form as part of the expansion?	<p>The Council are not aware of any decision having been taken to proceed with a possible academy conversion process at Murray Park, and any such decision is separate to the school expansion proposal. A school's status would not usually affect whether an expansion proposal should proceed.</p> <p>There are no plans to open a sixth form at Murray Park as part of a proposed expansion.</p>

Construction

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
Where will the new buildings be built and are there any plans online that we can access?	A planning application for the new buildings related to the proposed expansion was submitted in August 2017 and details,

Can the plans incorporate the proposed new swimming pool to replace the old Lonsdale pool?	<p>including building plans, can be viewed at www.derby.gov.uk/planning. The planning application reference is 08/17/01041. The plans do not incorporate a swimming pool.</p> <p>The majority of the proposed development at the school will be a separate new building and will not affect the running of existing buildings. Any work required to existing buildings will be carefully planned to minimise any disruption to teaching and learning. Construction traffic will also be closely managed to minimise disruption to the school and local residents. It is a usual expectation that delivery restrictions are put in place to avoid large construction vehicles arriving or departing from the site at the beginning and end of the school day.</p>
Construction traffic is a concern	
I would like to know that disruption for my son during construction work will be kept to a minimum	

Traffic and transport

Consultation Comment	Local Authority Response
Will any provision be made to ease the traffic flow on Murray Road and Earlswood Drive by providing a drop-off zone within the school?	<p>The school's travel plan will be updated to minimise the impact of the proposed expansion on traffic volume. All comments from local residents on traffic issues will be passed to Development Control for consideration alongside comments on the planning application for the proposed expansion of the school's buildings related to this proposal.</p> <p>A footpath between the Varsity Grange development and Earlswood Drive was not part of the plan for the development. However, a path from the development to Brisbane Road is under construction and nearing completion.</p> <p>The catchment area for the school does include the Mackworth area of the city and there is a good direct footpath/cycle path from Mackworth to the school. The school catchment area can be seen on a map at https://maps.derby.gov.uk</p>
My major concern is the number of vehicles dropping off and picking up, as there are already problems. This needs to be addressed by the Council with some urgency.	
I would like some reassurance about the traffic surrounding the development, as emergency services could not get through to properties on Earlswood Drive with the current issues	
Parking restrictions and no access signs are required as well as traffic management	
The bus stop opposite the Murray Road junction is dangerous	
When is the developer of the Varsity Grange estate going to complete the footpath to connect the estate to Earlswood Drive?	
What is the catchment area for the school, as there does seem to be a large number of taxis dropping pupils	

off?	
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