



Derby City Council

Children and Young People Board Meeting 20 November 2012

ITEM 8

Report of the Director of Commissioning for
Children and Young People

School Place Planning

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available to meet local needs. The number of applications for primary school places across the City for September 2012 has increased significantly in comparison with previous years leading to further pressure on primary places. A detailed projections methodology is used to project numbers based on birth data, migration data and previous trends.
- 1.2 Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place applications. Projections are showing an increasing trend in pupil numbers and there is a need for additional primary places in a number of areas of the City. In particular, there is a need for additional places in the Alvaston area where pupil numbers are projected to increase, and there is currently a close match between pupil numbers and places available.
- 1.3 In order to create additional school places in the Alvaston area, the proposal is for a major expansion to take place by increasing the size of Lakeside Community Primary School from 350 places to 630 places, an increase of 280 places from September 2013. The budget cost for expanding Lakeside Community Primary School is estimated to be £1.5m. This will be funded from the Council's Schools Capital Programme.
- 1.4 In addition to the proposed expansion of Lakeside Community Primary School, the proposal is to also increase admission limits in a range of other schools to create additional capacity in the City. Appendix 2 shows those schools where additional places will be created from September 2013. These proposed increases have been agreed in consultation with those schools.
- 1.5 Major expansion schemes previously approved by Council Cabinet for Arboretum Primary School (£3m) for an additional 210 places, and Homefields Primary School (£1.6m) an additional 105 places are continuing to progress on time.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Children and Young People Board are updated on the current situation with school place planning.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Similar to most Local Authorities, Derby is also experiencing an increase in pupil numbers across the City. Data recently released by the Office for National Statistics shows that previous projections for population growth were underestimated nationally. The Department for Education allocated an additional £600 million funding for basic need and school places. However, the allocation for Derby City Council was only £394,987. This limited funding is being used to create additional school places.
- 4.2 As background information, in Derby a total of 3,073 applications were received for primary school places last year. However, this year there has been an unprecedented increase in applications with 3,550 applications received to date, indicating a significant increase of 477 reception pupils in one year.
- 4.3 The Council closely monitors pupil numbers / projections and permanent expansion proposals are already approved by Council Cabinet for Arboretum Primary School and Homefields Primary School. In addition to this, further proposals to increase places by amending admission limits are also being developed following close consultation with a number of schools. These increases will result in an additional 192 places. A list of these proposals is shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 In terms of creating additional school places, the Council previously approved a capital project to permanently expand Homefields Primary from 210 places to 315 places, an increase of 105 places. Capital funding of £1.6 million was approved for this major project. This capital project is underway and additional places will be available for September 2013. Temporary accommodation was also provided to ensure additional pupils could be admitted from September 2012.
- 4.5 A major project at Arboretum Primary School was also previously approved by Council Cabinet. The school will be expanded from 315 places to 525 places from September 2014, an increase of 210 places. This expansion will meet the increase in need for primary pupil places in the Arboretum and Normanton areas of the City. Capital funding for £3m was approved for this major project. This capital project is underway and additional places will be available from September 2014. Temporary accommodation was also provided to ensure additional pupils could be admitted from September 2012.

- 4.6 In addition to expansions at Homefields Primary and Arboretum Primary, the proposal is to increase places in the Alvaston area of the City where pupil numbers are increasing. The proposal is to expand Lakeside Community Primary School from 350 places to 630 places, an increase of 280 places. A feasibility study has been completed with the PFI provider, Vinci, and the additional accommodation will be available for September 2013. In close consultation with the school, additional places have been created on a temporary basis from this year. The budget cost of this expansion will be £1.5m, which will be funded from the Council's Schools Capital Programme. The required informal and statutory consultation process to expand Lakeside Primary will also start shortly, including the publication of the required statutory notice.
- 4.7 In relation to the growth in pupil numbers and pressures on school places, one of the major challenges for the Council relates to the national reductions in school capital funding. Significant capital funding is needed to expand schools in Derby in view of increasing pupil numbers. The Council is continuing to raise this issue urgently with central government and to work very closely with schools in terms of proposals to increase admission limits and sizes of schools. Funding for additional school places will need to be a priority in next year's capital programme, subject to the level of capital funding allocated to the Council by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 4.8 Whilst the pressure for additional places is currently in the primary phase, this will become an issue for secondary schools in due course. Funding for secondary school expansions is therefore also required. Prior to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme being stopped, the BSF Programme was to provide additional secondary capacity.
- 4.9 In summary, the Council and schools are working very closely to provide additional school places across the city to ensure there are sufficient school places. The following list summarises the current position and proposals:
- Arboretum Primary School – proposed to be expanded to create an additional 210 places.
 - Homefields Primary School – proposed to be expanded to create an additional 105 places.
 - Lakeside Primary School – proposed to be expanded to create an additional 280 places.
 - Those schools listed in appendix 2 (excluding Lakeside Community Primary School) – proposal to increase admission limits to create an additional 152 places.
- 4.10 In total, the above increases will create an additional 747 school places with Council capital investment of £6.1m.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Given the increasing trend in pupil numbers, it is essential that increases are made to admission numbers to ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places within its boundary.
- 5.2 Due to the nature of the school sites and the size of the existing schools in the Alvaston area, the options for expansion at other primary schools in the area were limited. Lakeside Community Primary School is considered to provide the best opportunity for a major expansion.
- 5.3 If plans are not put in place now to provide additional provision, it is possible that there will be a shortfall of school places in this area in future years.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Stuart Leslie, Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Robin Constable, Solicitor
Financial officer	Alison Parkin, Head of Finance, Children and Young People, Resources
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Rita Silvester, Director of Commissioning
Other(s)	N/A

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	<p>Appendix 1 – Implications</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Proposals for permanent increases in admission numbers</p>

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Council Cabinet is sought to consider the approval of £1.5m Schools Capital Funding to increase the size of Lakeside Community Primary School (PFI School) from 350 places to 630 places. This project will be funded from the Schools Capital programme. Funding is available for this project. The phasing for this project will be £0.2m in 2012/13 and £1.3m in 2013/14. The capital programme will be updated following Council approval.
- 1.2 Schools Capital Programme Funding has already been approved for expansion schemes at Arboretum Primary School (£3m) and Homefields Primary School (£1.6m).
- 1.3 The revenue funding for school places is funded within the Dedicated Schools Grant and is currently based on pupil census count in January informing the following financial year funding allocations, from April 2013 the count date will move to the October census. An increase in numbers at a September point in the year does not generate any additional funding. Schools are familiar with this and accept that increases in a September intake have to be subsumed within the already allocated budget. Schools Forum will need to consider whether the creation of contingencies to deal with significant in year increases in something they would like to adopt.
- 1.4 However, significant increases in pupil numbers cannot be contained easily especially where new classes are required in a smaller school. A review of the individual needs of each school has been assessed and where it has been established that this increased capacity will cause significant financial pressure on the schools additional funding has been identified.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council's duty to ensure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in its area derives from section 14 Education Act 1996
- 2.2 As Lakeside Community Primary School is a PFI School, instructions to expand the school will be issued to Vinci following the requirements set out in the PFI Project Agreement.

- 2.3 The required consultation processes will need to be followed to expand Lakeside Primary from 350 places to 630 places. The first stage of this process involves informal consultation and the second stage involves the publication of a statutory notice. Council Cabinet have approved the publication of a statutory notice for Lakeside following the informal consultation period. If there are no objections during the statutory consultation period, the recommendation is to delegate authority to determine the proposal for Lakeside Primary to the Strategic Director of Children and Young People in consultation with the Cabinet member for Children and Young People and, if objections are received, to take a further report to Council Cabinet for a decision.
- 2.4 Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 an enlargement of the premises of a school which would increase its capacity by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser) is a “prescribed alteration”, for which it is necessary to publish proposals and follow the process outlined at 2.3 above. This degree of enlargement only applies to Lakeside Primary, which is why the process does not need to be followed in respect of the other schools listed at Appendix 2
- 2.5 A variation to increase a school’s published admission number is not required to be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. In line with the requirements of Section 3.7 of the School Admissions Code 2012, the Council will publish all proposed increases in published admission numbers and will further advise St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School as their own admission authority of the additional requirements to publish information on the school’s website until they are replaced by different determined admission arrangements.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 Where permanent school expansions are proposed, work will be planned to meet

relevant building regulations. Part L of the building regulation generally requires new components to be more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Risk Management

- 8.1 There is a risk that the Council will not be meeting its legal duty in respect of school places if additional school places are not provided.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 All people in Derby City will enjoy achieving their learning potential.

Appendix 2

Proposals for permanent increases in admission numbers

The table below sets out proposals to increase school admission limits at a number of schools:

School	Current admission number	Proposed admission number	Increase / Additional Places
Arboretum Primary	45	75	30
Ashgate Primary	45	60	15
Beaufort Primary	45	60	15
Firs Estate Primary	45	60	15
Homefields Primary	30	45	15
Lakeside Primary	50	90	40
Markeaton Primary	45	60	15
Osmaston Primary	60	75	15
Roe Farm Primary	45	60	15
Silverhill Primary	52	60	8
St Mary's Catholic Primary	51	60	9
Total			192

The above schools have been identified due to projected increases in pupil numbers within specific primary school clusters and across the city as a whole. Secondary school pupil numbers are also being very closely monitored.