

Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director  
of People Services  
Report author: Gurmail Nizzer, Acting Director  
of Commissioning

## **Proposal to increase school places at Brackensdale Primary School**

### **Purpose**

- 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 a large housing development underway at Kingsway which falls into Brackensdale Primary School's normal area.
- 1.2 A proposal has been developed to provide additional primary pupil places at Brackensdale Primary School to accommodate children moving into the new homes at Kingsway. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 60 up to 75 from September 2019, with an additional 105 places available across the school on a phased basis, starting from the Reception year group.
- 1.3 In terms of capital funding, the developers of the housing development at Kingsway have entered into a Section 106 agreement with the Council to provide £1.9 million of funding to increase accommodation at Brackensdale Primary School. The Headteacher and Governing Body support the proposal.
- 1.4 Initial consultation proposals took place over a four week period with consultation papers circulated to all key stakeholders and interested parties. A summary of consultation responses is shown in Appendix 2 and a copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 1.5 Due to the outcome of the initial consultation period, 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.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal to expand Brackensdale Primary School from September 2019.
- 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**

- 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 primary school places.

## **Supporting information**

- 4.1 A proposal has been developed to provide additional primary pupil places at Brackensdale Primary School. The proposal is to increase the school's admission number from 60 up to 75 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 will eventually be an additional 105 pupil places available at the school. Brackensdale Primary's current capacity is 420 places and the proposed expansion would increase the capacity to 525.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, at a meeting on 9 October 2018, approved the commencement of formal consultation on the proposal to expand Brackensdale Primary School from September 2019.
- 5.2 The initial consultation took place over a four week period from 16 October to 13 November 2018 with consultation papers circulated to all key stakeholders and interested parties, including all parents and staff. Only two responses were received to the consultation and both were in favour of the proposal. A summary of consultation responses is shown in Appendix 2 and a copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 3.
- 5.3 Having regard for the above factors and consultation responses, the recommendation is that the proposal to expand the school should proceed to the next stage of the consultation process which includes the publication of a statutory notice.

## **Other options**

- 6.1 Very careful consideration has been given to options for accommodating pupil growth. In developing proposals, a range of factors have been considered, including whether school sites can accommodate expansion.

## **Financial and value for money issues**

- 7.1 The developers of the new housing at Kingsway have entered into a Section 106 agreement with the Council to provide £1.9 million funding to create additional school places at Brackensdale Primary School. The proposal is to use this funding to building a new five classroom block with associated toilet and storage facilities. This can be implemented on the current school site. This £1.9 million will fully fund the proposed extension at the school and will be reported to Council Cabinet in due course.
- 7.2 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 implications**

- 8.1 Each local authority with responsibility for education has to secure sufficient primary and secondary places to meet the needs of the population of their area, under s.13 Education Act 1996.
- 8.2 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.

## **Other significant implications**

- 9.1 None for consideration.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
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<b>Legal</b>	Emily Feenan	28 November 2018
<b>Finance</b>	Alison Parkin	29 November 2018
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Gurmail Nizzer	28 November 2018
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Andy Smith	6 December 2018
<b>Other(s)</b>		

**Proposal to expand Brackensdale Primary School  
Summary of consultation responses**

Of a total of 2 respondents, both (100%) expressed support for the proposed merger.

The table below sets out a summary of consultation responses:

<b>Type of Respondent</b>	<b>Total Number of Responses</b>	<b>'Yes I support the proposal'</b>	<b>'No I don't support the proposal'</b>
Parent / Carer	0	0	0
Governor	0	0	0
Member of Staff	0	0	0
Other	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**The following comment was raised:**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Consideration should be given to the potential increase in traffic at dropping-off and picking up times, so that it has a minimal effect on residents in the immediate area.	<p>The school is updating its travel plan in anticipation of increased pupil numbers and it is a condition of the planning application for the new block that a revised travel plan must be signed off by the local authority.</p> <p>Improvements to the walking route from the Kingsway housing development to the school are being carried out to encourage pupils from the development to walk to school.</p>



**Consultation Period: Tuesday 16 October 2018 to Tuesday 13 November 2018**

## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

### **Please give us your views and comments on our proposal to increase pupil places at Brackensdale Primary School**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Derby City Council is consulting on a proposal to permanently increase the size and admission number of Brackensdale Primary School, Walthamstow Drive, Mackworth, Derby, DE22 4BS.
- 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 13 November 2018. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

#### **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 There is a large housing development underway at Kingsway which falls into Brackensdale Primary School's normal area. Additional primary places are now required at Brackensdale Primary to accommodate children moving into these new homes.
- 2.2 The proposal is to expand Brackensdale Primary School from an admission number of 60 to 75 with an overall capacity increase of 105 places (420 places to 525 places). The table below show the proposed increase in places at Brackensdale Primary School:

<b>School</b>	<b>Current admission number</b>	<b>Proposed admission number</b>	<b>Proposed additional places in each year group</b>	<b>Proposed additional places throughout school</b>
Brackensdale Primary	60	75	15	105

- 2.3 The proposal is for the proposed admission number of 75 to apply to the Reception year group only in September 2019. The new admission number would then move gradually through the school until reaching all year groups (Reception – Year 6). If there is pressure for places in other year groups as a result of the new housing, we will work with the school to open places in other year groups sooner if necessary.
- 2.4 There are no proposals to make any changes to the current 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'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 Brackensdale Primary School is to provide places for children moving into the new housing being built on the Kingsway development. There were enough school places to accommodate children moving into the first phase of the development, but new places are needed to provide for the second and future phases.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that if the expansion goes ahead, there will be sufficient places for all primary school aged pupils resident in the school's catchment area. The proposal is supported by the school and has been developed in consultation with them.

### **4.0 Capital Funding: School Places**

- 4.1 The developers of the new housing at Kingsway have entered into a Section 106 agreement with the Council to provide funding to create additional school places at Brackensdale Primary School.
- 4.2 Derby City Council has received £1.9 million Section 106 funding to increase accommodation at Brackensdale Primary School. The proposal is to use this funding to build a new five classroom block with associated toilet and storage facilities. This can be implemented on the current school site.
- 4.5 If the proposal goes ahead, we will work closely with the school to provide the 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 of 75 will be introduced from September 2019, initially in the Reception year group only. The proposal is for

the higher admission number to gradually feed through the school until reaching all year groups.

- 5.2 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.

## **6.0 What are the views of Headteacher and Governors?**

- 6.1 Brackensdale Primary 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 school, the extra pupils will result in increased funding for the school 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 Brackensdale Primary School relates to an increase in demand from new housing in the school's normal area. 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](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

## **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 13 November 2018. 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/brackensdale](http://www.derby.gov.uk/brackensdale)
- by sending an e-mail to [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto: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 Brackensdale expansion proposal. Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposals to increase pupil places at Brackensdale.
- 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 January/February 2019. We anticipate that a final decision would then be taken by March 2019.

## 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 Brackensdale Primary 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](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk)

by **Tuesday 13 November 2018**

#### Privacy Notice

The information we collect will only be used by Derby City Council's School Organisation and Provision Team for the purpose of making a decision on the proposed expansion of Brackensdale Primary School.

For further information about how your personal information will be used, please visit [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk) where you can see a full copy of our Privacy Notice. Alternatively you can request

a hard copy from:

Contact Support Team, Business Support, Derby City Council, Council House, Derby, DE1 2FS.

Email: [contact.support@derby.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:contact.support@derby.gcsx.gov.uk) Tel: 01332 640825