



Derby City Council

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**30 April 2014**

**ITEM 9**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**School Place Planning - Proposal to increase pupil places at Springfield Primary School**

**SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to ensure 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. There have been significant increases in pupil numbers over recent years and this trend is projected to continue. In order to ensure sufficient school places, proposals have been developed to expand a number of primary schools in Derby. At its meeting on 12 February 2014, Council Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice on proposals to increase the size of ten other primary schools in Derby.
- 1.2 As legally required, initial consultation has now taken place on proposals to increase the size and admission number of Springfield Primary School, as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of this report. Consultation took place over a four week period with consultation papers circulated to all key stakeholders and interested parties. A summary of responses received is set out in Appendix 2, and a copy of the Consultation Document is attached as Appendix 3. The proposed new admission number, if approved, will take effect from September 2015. The Headteacher and Governors of the school have given their support to the proposal to increase the size of the school.
- 1.3 The Council closely monitors the demand for pupil places and some schools have already expanded in size. Further places are required to ensure that Derby can continue to meet its legal duty in relation to school places. It is anticipated that if all of the expansion proposals go ahead, there will be sufficient places for all primary school aged pupils resident in Derby City for at least the next 6 years. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be closely monitored.
- 1.4 Due to the significantly increasing pupil numbers, this report recommends that Council Cabinet approves moving to the next stage of the consultation process, which includes 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 increase pupil places at Springfield Primary School.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to determine the proposal to the Strategic Director of Children & Young People, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
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- 3.1 As things stand, Derby is forecasting a 12% shortfall of places by the 2016/17 academic year. This is why school expansions are being proposed to ensure that there are enough school places for all pupils living in Derby.



Derby City Council

## COUNCIL CABINET 30 April 2014

### Report of the Strategic Director for Children and Young People

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Derby City Council has consulted on proposals to permanently increase the size and admission number at Springfield Primary School as a result of increasing pupil numbers. The proposal is to increase the admission number from 30 to 45, which would create an additional 105 places at the school.
- 4.2 The proposal is for the new proposed admission number to apply to the Reception Year Group only in September 2015. The new admission number would then move gradually through the school, each year, until reaching all primary year groups (Reception - Year 6). This approach will remain under review as it may be necessary to create places in other specific year groups to respond to increasing pupil numbers.
- 4.3 Local authorities have a legal responsibility to make sure that there are enough school places available to meet local needs. Local authorities also have a duty to increase the scope for parental choice in planning for and securing school places. The Government's aim is that parents should be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this can not be guaranteed.
- 4.4 Nationally, primary and secondary pupils are forecasted to increase between 2011/12 academic year and 2016/17 academic year. Two thirds of local authorities are now predicting that they will have more pupils than places by the beginning of the 2016 academic year. Some local areas are forecasting a 20% shortfall in places by 2015, according to an analysis of official data. Many local authorities are permanently expanding provision in response to school place pressures.
- 4.5 The proposal to increase the size and admission number of Springfield Primary School is part of a wider scheme of expansions to meet a significant increase in demand for primary school pupil places across Derby City. Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place applications over recent years and pupil numbers are projected to continue to increase. As things stand, Derby is forecasting a 12% shortfall of places by the 2016/17 academic year. This is why school expansions are being proposed to ensure that there are enough school places for all pupils living in Derby.
- 4.6 Further places are required to ensure that Derby can continue to meet its legal duty in relation to school places. It is anticipated that if all of the expansion proposals go ahead, there will be sufficient places for all primary school aged pupils resident in Derby City for at least the next 6 years. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be closely monitored.

- 4.7 School expansions require careful consideration and needs to be seen in the context of school places in the wider area. The proposals to increase the number of pupil places at Springfield Primary School relate to a significant increase in demand for places in Derby City. There is no intention to reduce the size of schools elsewhere as a result of this proposal and there are no proposals to change school catchment areas.
- 4.8 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People approved the commencement of the initial consultation on the proposal to increase pupil places at Springfield Primary School from September 2015. This consultation period has now come to a close and Appendix 2 sets out an analysis of the consultation responses received. Of a total of 13 responses, 4 (31%) expressed support for the proposal, 5 (38%) objected to the proposal and 4 (31%) were undecided. Some of the objections related to traffic and parking issues which will be considered as part of the planning application on the proposal. Having regard to the increasing pupil numbers, the recommendation is that the proposal to expand the schools should proceed to the next stage of the process, which includes the publication of a statutory notice.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Careful consideration has been given to which schools should be put forward for expansion proposals. Consideration has been given to the location of each school within the City, the current size of the schools and whether the school sites would allow for an expansion.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b>	Robin Constable, Solicitor
<b>Financial officer</b>	Alison Parkin, Acting Head of Finance, Children and Young People's Dept.
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	None
<b>Estates/Property officer</b>	None
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Frank McGhee, Director of Commissioning
<b>Other(s)</b>	None

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Gurmail Nizzer, Head of School Organisation and Provision, tel. 01332 642720, email <a href="mailto:Gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk">Gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation responses
	Appendix 3 – Consultation Document
	Appendix 4 – Funding required for each school expansion

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 In response to increasing pupil numbers, the Government has made available capital funding to create additional school places in those areas experiencing the greatest pressure on places. Derby has been successful in bidding for £5.1million of Government funding and has carefully considered what proposals should be put forward to create much needed additional primary school places.
- 1.2 To ensure that the Council can continue to meet its legal duty to provide sufficient school places, the Council has also prioritised further capital funding of £5,826,651, for additional primary school places.
- 1.3 Careful consideration has been given to the teaching space, and other ancillary spaces, available at Springfield Primary School. £883,875 of Government Targeted Capital Funding has been allocated to provide accommodation for 105 additional pupils.
- 1.4 There are revenue implications arising from this proposed expansion, as the additional pupils in September 2015 will not trigger any funding until the following April. To ensure that schools with additional classes have some additional revenue funding to meet these costs, a Growth Fund has been established. The allocations and the criteria for applications will be agreed as part of the budget setting process. This is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

### Legal

- 2.1 Under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007, (as amended), local authorities need to consult and publish a public notice on proposals to increase the number of pupil places at a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is less). The process involves consultation, publication of a statutory notice and consideration of the responses received. Subject to the outcome of this process, the implementation date is likely to be September 2015.
- 2.2 Under s.13 Education Act 1996 local authorities must secure efficient primary (and secondary) education is available to meet the needs of the population of their area.

### Personnel

- 3.1 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 school to employ the extra staff it needs.

### 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

## **Property and Asset Management**

7.1 Additional accommodation will be required to enable the school to take the increased number of pupils proposed. Further detail on the proposed capital investment is set out in Appendix 4.

## **Risk Management**

8.1 If school expansion proposals are not taken forward, there could be a shortfall of pupil places in future years meaning that Derby would fail to meet its statutory duty. It is anticipated that if all proposals go ahead, there will be enough school places to meet local needs for at least the next 6 years. Pupil numbers and projections will be kept under review.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 The proposal supports the Corporate Priority of building ambition, aspiration and achievement in the city's young people.

### Proposals to expand pupil places at Springfield Primary School Summary of consultation responses

Overall, a total of 13 responses were received with 4 (31%) expressing support for the proposed expansion. The table below sets out a summary of consultation responses:

Total Number of Responses	'Yes I agree with the proposal'	'No I don't agree with the proposal'	I am undecided about the proposal
13	4	5	4

The key comments made in relation to the proposed school expansion can be summarised as follows:

- OfSTED has recently judged the school as good, moving towards outstanding, so an expansion will enable more pupils to receive an excellent education
- Springfield is the ideal place for additional pupils to be sure of a very high standard of education
- Additional pupils will lead to overcrowding, large class sizes and overstretched teachers
- Loss of playground space
- Loss of small school appeal and ethos

*[Derby City Council response: 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. Funding is already in place to provide additional space for an increased number of pupils.]*

- Concerns that additional pupils will add to existing traffic issues on West Road
- Parking is already an issue on West Road
- Need for road safety measures

*[Derby City Council Response: Council officers from Children and Young People's Services and Highways are already working local Councillors to address the congestion and parking issues on West Road. The Council has a legal duty to ensure sufficient school places and additional places are required in order to meet growth in pupil numbers.]*

- Concerns that the consultation document was not sent out to local residents
- The consultation document does not provide enough information on the background to the proposal to make a decision about the proposal.

*[Derby City Council Response: Under new School Organisation Regulations, local authorities are no longer required to carry out consultation on statutory proposals to expand schools. However, the Council is consulting on the proposal in order to ensure that the views of interested parties can be taken into account. ]*



## Appendix 3



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Consultation Period: 19 March 2014 to 16 April 2014

To:

Parents of pupils at Springfield Primary School, other local schools, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions & Derby City Councillors (Ward Members).

### CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Derby City Council is consulting on a proposal to permanently increase the size and admission number of Springfield Primary School, as a result of increasing pupil numbers, as follows:

<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>
Springfield Primary School	30	45	15	105

The proposal is for the above proposed admission number to apply to the Reception year group only in September 2015. The new admission number would then move gradually through the school until reaching all primary year groups (Reception - Year 6).

1.2 This Consultation 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

Consultation Response Form. The closing date for responses is **Wednesday 16 April 2014**. We hope you find the document helpful and informative.

## **2.0 Reason for the Proposals**

- 2.1 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 Government's aim is that parents should be able to gain a place for their child at their preferred school, although this can not be guaranteed.
- 2.2 The reason for the proposal to increase the size and admission number of Springfield Primary School is to help meet a significant increase in demand for primary school pupil places. Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place applications over recent years and pupil numbers are forecast to continue to increase. As things stand, Derby is forecasting a 12% shortfall of places by the 2016/17 academic year. This is why school expansions are being proposed to ensure that there are enough school places for all pupils living in Derby.
- 2.3 The Council closely monitors pupil numbers and projections and permanent expansions have already taken place at Homefields Primary School, Lakeside Primary School and Arboretum Primary School. Further schools will be expanded in time for September 2014. In addition, The Bemrose School will become an all-through school for pupils aged 3-18 from September 2014.
- 2.4 It is anticipated that if all of the expansion proposals go ahead, there will be sufficient places for all primary school aged pupils resident in Derby City for at least the next 6 years. Pupil numbers and projections will continue to be closely monitored.

## **3.0 National Picture: Pupil Numbers**

- 3.1 Nationally, primary and secondary pupils are forecasted to increase between the 2011/12 academic year and 2016/17 academic year. Two thirds of local authorities are now predicting that they will have more pupils than places by the beginning of the 2016 academic year.
- 3.2 Some local areas are forecasting a 20% shortfall in places by 2015, according to an analysis of official data.
- 3.3 Many local authorities are permanently expanding provision in response to school place pressures.

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

- 4.1 In response to increasing pupil numbers, the Government has made available funding to create additional school places in those areas experiencing the greatest pressure on places. Derby has been successful in bidding for £5.1million of Government funding and has carefully considered what proposals should be put forward to create much needed additional primary school places.

4.2 To ensure that the Council can continue to meet its legal duty to provide sufficient school places, the Council has also prioritised further funding for additional primary school places.

4.3 With regard to Springfield Primary School, £883,875 is available through Government Targeted Capital Funding to provide 105 additional places at the school. If the proposals go 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. There are no proposals to make any changes to the school's catchment area.

#### **5.0 When will the proposed school expansions take place?**

5.1 The proposed new admission number, if approved, will take effect from September 2015. The proposal is for the increased admission number to gradually feed through the school until reaching all year groups.

#### **6.0 What are the views of the School?**

6.1 The school has given its support for 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 it needs.

#### **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 proposals to increase the number of pupil places at the school relate to a significant increase in demand for places. We don't intend to reduce the size of schools elsewhere as a result of this proposal and we are not proposing to change school catchment areas.

#### **9.0 How can I give the Council my views and comments on the proposal?**

9.1 We are very interested in your views and comments on our proposal. Please respond to us, in writing, by using the Consultation Response Form attached to this paper or by using the email address below. There is a four-week period for people to respond to this consultation. The closing date for responses is **Wednesday 16 April 2014**. If you would like to discuss any specific aspects of the proposal or need more information, please contact:

Helen Zwart  
School Organisation and Provision Team  
Children and Young People's Directorate  
Telephone: 01332 642723  
Email: [helen.zwart@derby.gov.uk](mailto:helen.zwart@derby.gov.uk)



## **10.0 What are the next steps?**

- 10.1 Local Authorities need to publish a public notice on proposals to increase the number of pupil places at a school by 25% or 200 places (whichever is less). Please use this consultation as an opportunity to give us your views and comments on our proposals to increase pupil places at Springfield Primary School.
  
- 10.2 After the closing date, we will gather all the responses that we have received and report them to the Council Cabinet (the group of Councillors who make decisions) to consider and decide about progressing to the next stage of the consultation process. If Council Cabinet approves moving to the next stage, a formal public notice will be published with a further four-week consultation period, as required by law. Following that, consideration will be given to the responses received and a final decision will be taken on the proposal. We anticipate that a final decision will be taken by Mid-June 2014.

# Proposal to increase pupil places at Springfield Primary 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 Springfield 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**.....

**Status**.....

(For example, a parent, governor, school, agency, other)

**Please return your completed form to: Helen Zwart, Project Development Officer, Children and Young People's Directorate, Derby City Council, Council House, Corporation Street, DE1 2FS.**

**Email: [helen.zwart@derby.gov.uk](mailto:helen.zwart@derby.gov.uk)**

**All responses will be treated confidentially.**

The closing date for getting your views and comments in is **Wednesday 16 April 2014.**



## Appendix 4

### Funding required for the expansion of Springfield Primary School

The table below sets out the proposed funding source to provide additional teaching accommodation at Springfield Primary School.

<b>School</b>	<b>Proposed additional places throughout school</b>	<b>Funding required / approved</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Springfield Primary School	105	£883,875	Targeted Capital Funding