

# Decision Record – Proposal to Increase the Admission No for Camp Hill Primary School

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision: *name and portfolio*

Councillor Heather Timms, Portfolio Holder for Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 26 August 2011)

30 August 2011

## Decision taken

Having considered the response to formal consultation, I approve the proposal to increase the capacity of Camp Hill Primary School from 45 to 60 places per year; approve the publication of statutory notices and authorise officers to seek approval of the Schools Adjudicator to formally apply the new admission number with effect from September 2012.

## Reasons for Decisions

The decision follows that taken by Cabinet on 16 December 2010 to undertake consultation on proposals to increase provision in primary schools to ensure the Local Authority would be able to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places.

One of the locations identified as requiring additional spaces was the Camp Hill area of Nuneaton. After initial formative discussions with the school, formal consultations with stakeholders took place between 6 June and 15 July 2011.

Pupil numbers in the area are forecast to continue to rise. If we do nothing, it is likely that there will be insufficient places in reception from September 2012. This would result in children from within the priority area having to travel to a school outside the area to secure a place.

The pupil forecasts shown in the report take account of the redevelopment of the area and new housing being built. The downturn in the housing market does mean that building has slowed over recent years and so it might take a little longer for the larger figures to materialise. However, we envisage numbers will increase at reception due to the rise in the birth-rate already witnessed in the area.

**Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (summarised below. See officer report for full detail and comments made in consultation)):**

## Background

1.0 Camp Hill Primary School is a Community primary school serving the Camp Hill area of Nuneaton. The school currently has 281 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 45 pupils per year, and a capacity of 315 pupils. In addition there are 39 children in the nursery class.

2. Warwickshire is experiencing, and is forecast to continue to see, a significant growth in pupil numbers which is feeding into primary schools. The fall and rise in the birth rate in Warwickshire follows the national trend very closely with births falling each year between 1991 and 2001 before entering a rising trend from 2002 until 2009.
3. Pupil numbers in the area are forecast to continue to rise. If we do nothing, it is likely that there will be insufficient places in reception from September 2012. This would result in children from within the priority area having to travel to a school outside the area to secure a place.
4. The proposal is to increase the admission number of Camp Hill Primary School from 45 to 60 pupils per year with effect from September 2012 admissions. It is proposed that additional accommodation is provided from September 2012. Two forms of entry, would in time, assist the school in organising into single age classes.
5. A feasibility study carried out earlier this year indicates that Camp Hill Primary School could be extended to accommodate the additional pupils. The new accommodation will be designed in consultation with representatives of the school with a view to having the provision in place from September 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **Consultation**

6. Four responses were received. Only one raised concern about the impact on other schools and asked whether Camp Hill had been considered in isolation.
7. A great deal of work has taken place to assess the impact of the increase in the birth rate across the county. We have looked at data provided by the PCT showing numbers of pre school children by school priority area. When considered in conjunction with the most up to date pupil forecasts, we are able to identify potential hot spots where demand for spaces is likely to exceed availability. Data supports an expansion in provision on Camp Hill. We do not envisage an increase in the pupil admission numbers, which will be introduced one year group at a time with effect from September 2012, will have a detrimental effect on the other schools in the area.

#### **Financial and Legal Implications**

The total cost of the project to provide accommodation is estimated at approximately £1,300,000 and provision has been made within the 2011/2012 capital programme.

Report Author: Janet Neale

Head of Service: Mark Gore

Strategic Director: Marion Davis

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Heather Timms

## Checklist

**Urgent matter: yes/no\***

No

**Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)**

No

**Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework**

No

**List of Reports considered** [please attach or forward a copy]

Report attached

**List of Background Papers** [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Cabinet Report 16.12.2010
- Formal Consultation Paper
- Responses to Consultation

**Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.**

**Consulted:**

Cabinet members: Cllrs Timms and Wright

Local Members:

Councillor Tooth

Councillor Chattaway

Councillor Clarke

Councillor Foster

Councillor Farnell

Councillor Heatley

Councillor Hicks

Councillor Jackson

Councillor Lobbett

Councillor Longden

Councillor McCarney

Councillor Ross

Councillor Tandy.

Legal: Fay Forde, Barry Jukes (comments incorporated in report).

Finance: John Betts, Head of Finance, Chris Blundell, John Harmon

Dan Byles, MP

**For Information:**

CYP O&S Chair and Vice Chair for information:

Cllr June Tandy

Cllr John Ross

CYP O&S Spokespersons for information:

Cllr Peter Balaam

Cllr Carolyn Robbins