

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision maker Portfolio Holder (Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools) Decision Making Session

Date of Decision- Not before 26 August 2011

Report Title Proposal to Increase the Admission Number of The Willows C of E Primary School

Summary This report gives details of the response to formal consultation on the proposal to increase the admission number of The Willows C of E Primary School and seeks permission to publish statutory notices.

For further information please contact: Janet Neale
Project Officer, Access and Organisation
Tel 01926 742266
janetneale@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background papers

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

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Cabinet 16.12.10

Local Member(s)

Councillor Rolfe
Councillor Cockings
Councillor Appleton
Councillor Balaam
Councillor Barnes
Councillor Gittus
Councillor Hobbs
Councillor Johnston
Councillor Perry
Councillor Rickhards
Councillor Saint
Councillor Seccombe

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Elected Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | O&S Chair and Vice Chair for information:
Cllr June Tandy
Cllr John Ross

O&S Spokespersons for information:
Cllr Peter Balaam
Cllr Carolyn Robbins |
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Heather Timms (Decision Maker)
Cllr David Wright |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fay Ford " <i>comments incorporated into the report</i> "
Barry Juckes |
| Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | John Betts, Head of Finance
Chris Blundell
John Harmon |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stratford District Council |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nadhim Zahawi, MP |

FINAL DECISION **No**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | For final decision |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | | |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Publication of Statutory Notices |

Proposal to Increase the Admission Number of The Willows C of E Primary School

Recommendations

That the Portfolio Holder:

- considers the response to formal consultation on proposals to increase the capacity of The Willows C of E Primary School from 45 to 60 places per year;
- approves the proposal;
- approves the publication of statutory notices;
- authorises officers to seek approval of the Schools Adjudicator to formally apply the new admission number with effect from September 2012.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 16 December 2010 Cabinet agreed to the Strategic Director carrying out formal consultation with stakeholders 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.
- 1.2 One of the locations identified as requiring additional spaces was Stratford Town. After initial formative discussions with a number of schools, formal consultations with stakeholders on a proposal to expand the Willows C of E Primary School took place between 6 June and 15 July 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Willows C E Primary School is a Church of England controlled primary school serving the western area of Stratford-upon-Avon from the town centre along the Alcester Road and north of Evesham Road around Bordon Hill, but excluding Shottery and the area served by Bishopton Primary School. The northern boundary is formed by the canal and the eastern boundary by the railway line from where it crosses the canal, and includes Station Road, Grove Road and Evesham Road to the junction with Brookvale Road. Brookvale Road is included.
- 2.2 The school currently has 317 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 45 pupils per year, and a capacity of 315 pupils.
- 2.3 Pupil numbers in the area are forecast to continue to rise. Although we have taken steps to increase the capacity at a number of schools in the area, it is likely that if we do nothing, there will be insufficient places in reception from September 2012. This would result in children having to travel to a school outside the area to secure a place.

2.4 The table below shows actual and forecast pupil numbers for Stratford Town

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2005/06	226	247	246	247	256	239	264	1725
2006/07	224	233	248	251	254	263	235	1708
2007/08	255	236	237	247	259	259	269	1762
2008/09	264	264	242	237	251	258	261	1777
2009/10	270	270	265	244	246	254	265	1814
2010/11	255	262	271	269	253	248	254	1812
2011/12	307	251	262	271	269	253	248	1861
2012/13	316	313	257	268	277	275	259	1965
2013/14	302	325	322	266	277	286	284	2062

2.5 The total number of reception places in the area available in September 2011 will be 295. If we increase the PAN at The Willows for September 2012 the total PAN at reception in Stratford Town will be 310.

3. The Proposal

3.1 The proposal is to increase the admission number of The Willows C of E 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.

3.2 A feasibility study carried out earlier this year indicates that The Willows C of E 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.

3.3 The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately £2,600,000 and provision has been made within the 2011/2012 capital programme.

4. Consultation

4.1 Formal consultation with stakeholders, attached as **Appendix A**, took place between 6 June and 15 July 2011. A consultation paper was sent to all parents, to prospective parents, staff, the Governing Body and the Pupil School Council of The Willows C of E Primary School, schools, Stratford District Council, Diocesan Education Authorities, neighbouring Local Authorities and the local Member of Parliament.

4.2 A total of 3 responses were received. A summary of responses received with comments is set out below received to date. Copies of all responses have been placed in the Members' Group Rooms and the Cabinet Office.

4.3 Councillor Balaam – fully supportive of the proposal

Orion Johnson, Chair of Governors, Willows C E Primary School – the governors are supportive of the proposal having been in discussion with an officer of the County Council regarding plans for the additional build.

Clare Norman, local resident – concern about the impact on other schools in the area, will there be too many places? Concern about the loss of outside space at the school.

4.4 *Comment*

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 within Stratford Town. Thought has been given to the site size of the schools within the town and the suitability of the schools for expansion. We also looked in some detail at where we thought the children requiring places were. The most appropriate location for the additional places appears to be at the Willows C of E Primary School. The Headteacher and the Governors are supportive of the proposal.

The size of the school site is not being increased but care will be taken to ensure that the redesign of the school will continue to provide adequate space for play areas.

We do not envisage an increase in the PAN, 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.

5. Planned Timescales and Statutory Requirements

5.1 As the proposal represents a significant increase in the admission number and includes building work, the proposal would be subject to statutory proposals. The School Admissions Code 2010 requires that all changes to Published Admission Numbers for September 2012 should have been determined by 15 April 2011. However, paragraph 1.2.1 of the Admissions Code of Conduct requires that such a change to the introduction of the new admission number for September 2012 would need to be referred to the School's Adjudicator for final determination after the successful completion of statutory notices.

5.2 The key milestones, subject to responses at each stage, are as follows:

Statutory consultation	September/October 2011
Referral to Schools Adjudicator	October 2011
Determination by the Schools Adjudicator	November/December 2011
Implementation of proposals	September 2012

6. Summary

6.1 The report gives details of the response to consultation on the proposal to provide additional primary school places at The Willows C of E Primary School. The proposal is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of The Willows C of E Primary School. The potential benefits for the school of moving over time to a full two form entry school should not be underestimated. Given this and the demonstrated need for primary school places in the area, the Portfolio Holder is asked to consider approving the publication of the necessary statutory notices.

Report Author: Janet Neale
Head of Service: Mark Gore
Strategic Director: Marion Davis
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Heather Timms

12 August 2011

Consultation Paper

Proposal to Increase the Admission Number of The Willows C E Primary School with effect from September 2012 Admissions.

1. The Proposal

The proposal is to increase the admission number of The Willows C E 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.

2. Background

The Willows C E Primary School is a Church of England controlled primary school serving the western area of Stratford-upon-Avon from the town centre along the Alcester Road and north of Evesham Road around Bordon Hill, but excluding Shottery and the area served by Bishopton Primary School. The northern boundary is formed by the canal and the eastern boundary by the railway line from where it crosses the canal, and includes Station Road and Grove Road and Evesham Road to the junction with Brookvale Road. Brookvale Road is included.

The school currently has 317 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 45 pupils per year, and a capacity of 315 pupils.

3. Why Are The Changes Necessary?

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.

Pupil numbers in the area are forecast to continue to rise. Although we have taken steps to increase the capacity at a number of schools in the area, it is likely that if we do nothing, there will be insufficient places in reception from September 2012. This would result in children having to travel to a school outside the area to secure a place.

The table below shows actual and forecast pupil numbers for Stratford Town

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2005/06	226	247	246	247	256	239	264	1725
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2012/13	316	313	257	268	277	275	259	1995
2013/14	302	325	322	266	277	286	284	2062

The total number of reception places in the area available in September 2011 will be 295. If we increase the PAN at The Willows for September 2012 the total PAN at reception in Stratford Town will be 310.

4. What Is The Impact Of The Change?

a) Building

The design of the new accommodation would be undertaken in consultation with representatives of the school to provide accommodation for an intake of 60 pupils per year from September 2012.

b) Funding

The total cost of the project is yet to be finalised but it is intended that this will be funded from the capital programme.

5. When Would The Changes Take Effect?

If approved, a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 pupils will apply to admissions to The Willows C E Primary School from September 2012 onwards.

An increase of the PAN from 45 to 60 would see the overall capacity of the school increase by 15 places in each year group to give an overall capacity of 420. Usually we would only look to expand a school by one year group at a time.

6. What Happens Next?

This consultation paper is being sent to all parents, to prospective parents, staff, the governing body and the Student Council of The Willows C E Primary School. Copies will also be sent to other schools in the area, Stratford District Council, local Parish Councils, Diocesan Education Authorities, admission authorities and the Local Member of Parliament.

The key milestones, subject to responses at each stage are as follows:

Consultation on proposals	-	6 June – 15 July 2011
Consideration by Cabinet	-	8 September 2011
Statutory Consultation	-	22 Sept – 3 Nov 2011
Final Report to School Adjudicator	-	7 November 2011

We want to know your views. The deadline for responses is 15 July 2011.

Please send you comments via email to consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk or in writing to:

Access and Organisation (Ref JN)
Learning and Achievement
Children, Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

Proposal to increase the Admission Number of The Willows C of E Primary School.

Responses to consultation

- The Willows C of E Primary School
- Clare Norman
- Councillor Balaam

My ref: CYPF/LA/AO/JAN/jn



Children, Young People and Families

Orion Johnson
Chair of Governors
The Willows C E Primary School
The Willows North
Stratford on Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 9QN

Janet Neale
Access and Organisation
Learning and Achievement
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

Tel: 01926 742266
Fax: 01926 742083

e-mail: janetneale@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

22nd July 2011

Dear Mrs Johnson,

Proposal to increase the PAN of The Willows C of E Primary School.

Thank you for your letter of 15 July in response to the current consultation on the proposal to increase the PAN of The Willows C of E Primary School.

The Lead Portfolio Holder for Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools will consider the response to the consultation at the end of August. I will ensure that a copy of your letter is made available for Elected Members to inform the decision making process.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Neale
Project Officer, Access and Organisation

*Working for
Warwickshire*

Received 21.07.11



WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
The Willows Church of England Primary School
The Willows North, Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire CV37 9QN

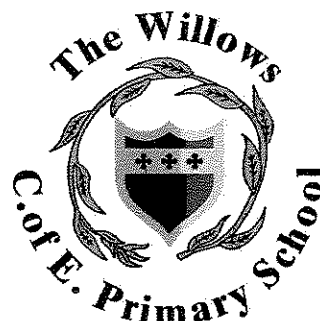
Headteacher: Mrs J. McBride

Tel: 01789 205811

Fax: 01789 294726

E-mail: admin3204@we-learn.com

www.willows.warwickshire.sch.uk



15 July 2011

Janet Neale
Learning and Achievement
Children, Young People and Families
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
WARWICK
CV34 4UL

Dear Ms Neale

**CONSULTATION: PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ADMISSION NUMBER OF THE
WILLOWS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 2012
ADMISSIONS**

This is to confirm that the Governing Body of the Willows CE Primary School does not object to the proposal to increase the admission number from 45 to 60 pupils per year with effect from September 2012 admissions, subject to additional classroom space and necessary increased facilities being put in place to accommodate the additional pupil numbers by September 2012.

The requirements for the new accommodation have been discussed between the school, the governors and John Harmon *Service Manager, Capital and Property* and agreement reached with the plans as submitted by John Harmon to the Head Teacher and governors on 20 June 2011. These are the plans ref: *B1707/Willows/06*.

Therefore, as the situation stands today and as agreed at the school's full governing body meeting on 20 June 2011, the governors' agreement to the proposed increase in the admission number is subject to the plans as submitted to the school on 20 June 2011 being approved and implemented.

Yours sincerely

ORION JOHNSON
Chair of Governors, Willows CE Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon



My ref: CYPF/LA/AO/JAN/jn



Children, Young People and Families

Clare Norman
14 Hathaway Hamlet
Cottage Lane
Shottery
Warwickshire
CV37 9HJ

Janet Neale
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Warwick
CV34 4UL

Tel: 01926 742266
Fax: 01926 742083

e-mail: janetneale@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk

8th July 2011

Dear Ms Norman,

Proposal to increase the PAN of The Willows C of E Primary School.

Thank you for your letter of 21 June in response to the current consultation on the proposal to increase the PAN of The Willows C of E Primary School.

Pupil forecasts for Stratford suggest that unless steps are taken to increase the current provision there will be insufficient places in reception from September 2012 onwards. Current admissions figures for this coming September show that without The Willows having agreed to take additional number as an interim measure, there would have been insufficient places for the children in the area.

The Lead Portfolio Holder for Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools will consider the response to the consultation at the end of August. Information made available to support the decision making process will include updated pupil forecast data and a comparison of September 2011 admissions against original forecasts for the same period. We will also provide Members with an assessment of the likely impact on other schools in the area based on admissions data for 2011 and revised pupil forecasts.

I note your comments about the impact of further building work at The Willows C of E Primary School and must stress, that if the proposal to increase the capacity of the school goes ahead, plans for expansion will be developed as a result of discussions between the local authority and the school. Guidance regarding outdoor play space etc. will be adhered to and all steps will be taken to ensure that any changes will enhance the facilities for the children in the school.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation process. I can assure you that your comments will be made known to the Elected Members to inform the decision making process.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Neale
Project Officer, Access and Organisation

*Working for
Warwickshire*

14 Hathaway Hamlet
Cottage Lane
Shottery
Warwickshire
CV37 9HJ

Warwickshire County Council
Access and Organisation,
Learning and Achievement
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

21 June 2011

Dear Ms Neale,

REF: PROPOSAL TO INCREASE PAN AT THE WILLOWS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many thanks for your letter regarding the proposal to increase the PAN at the Willows CE Primary School.

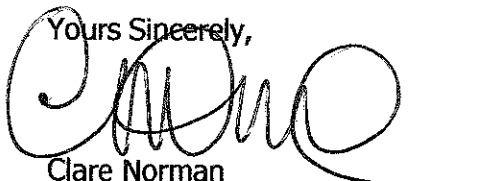
It is my understanding that over a period of years, the PAN has increased steadily at the Willows. Indeed, many new buildings have been built to accommodate the increase in children and I feel that if this is to continue, a time will come where there is very little open space at the school. One of the main assets of the school are its outside space and playing fields but continuously building on this is to the detriment of the pupils.

That said, I do understand that the children in Stratford do need a school place, and think it would be unfair for families living in the town to have to travel out to schools further afield. However, looking at the allocation of school places for reception 2011 I see that some schools (for instance, Thomas Jolyffe) weren't even given their full allocation of children? I think it would be far fairer if the other Stratford schools were allocated all of their places rather than a school such as the Willows being forced to increase their intake. I also question whether the increase is as necessary as suggested – for instance children from as far as 2.3 miles were allocated a place at the Willows for reception 2011. Whilst this is a great reflection on the school as it shows it's a popular choice, is the school being forced to take more children just due to its popularity? Were there really no school places at all closer to the families who lived over 2 miles away? I doubt it?

So whilst I do agree that there should be sufficient places, I do question whether losing the outdoor space and diluting the teaching staff at the school really is as necessary as it seems? If all school places were allocated, and families were allocated places at their nearest school, would the increase really be required at the Willows? It would be a shame if the pupils actually attending the Willows lost out if not.

I look forward to reading updates on the consultation when they are available.

Yours Sincerely,



Clare Norman

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To: cllrbalaam@warwickshire.gov.uk
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Willows PAN

Dear Councillor Balaam,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation on the proposal to increase the PAN at The Willows C E Primary School. I will ensure your views are included in the decision making process.

Kind regards

Janet

Janet Neale
on behalf of

Access and Organisation
Learning and Achievement

cllrbalaam

Janet I fully support the proposed increase in the...

09/06/2011 09:58:00

From: cllrbalaam@warwickshire.gov.uk
To: <consultations@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Date: 09/06/2011 09:58
Subject: Willows PAN

Janet

I fully support the proposed increase in the PAN for The Willows

Best wishes

Peter Balaam

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