

Decision Record – Proposal to Increase Admission Number of Oakfield Primary School

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision:

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 Oakfield Primary School from 30 to 45 places per year; approve the publication of statutory notices and authorises 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 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.

One of the locations identified as requiring additional spaces was the town of Rugby. After initial formative discussions with a number of schools, formal consultations with stakeholders on a proposal to expand Oakfield Primary School took place between 13 June and 22 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 recent development in the area. However, the numbers are capped at the current admission number of 30. It should be noted that there is currently a waiting list for places in reception for September 2011.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (Summarised below but also see officer report for detail):

Background

Oakfield Primary School is a Community primary school in Rugby. It serves the area bounded by Dunchurch Road from its junction with Overslade Lane, Warwick Street and Bilton Road (Bilton Road, between junctions with Webb Ellis Road and Lawford Road

shared with St. Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary). The school also shares the Eastern side of Lytham Road, Overslade Lane, Harris Drive, Buchanan Road and Bilton Road (odd numbers) to its junction with Lytham Road with Bilton C of E Junior School. The school currently has 181 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 30 pupils per year, and a capacity of 210 pupils. In addition there are 32 children in the nursery class.

The proposal is to increase the admission number of Oakfield Primary School from 30 to 45 pupils per year with effect from September 2012 admissions. It is proposed that additional accommodation is provided from September 2012.

There have been no objections in response to the consultation.

Financial and Legal Implications

Oakfield Primary School shares a campus with the Merrttens Centre of the Pupil Referral Unit and Oakfield Children's Centre. As part of the reorganisation of the Pupil Referral Unit, the Merrttens centre will close with effect from the end of July 2011.

The possibility of redevelopment or refurbishment of the Merrttens site to provide additional places at Oakfield Primary is being investigated. An indicative maximum allocation of £2,000,000 is proposed and has been made available from 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

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 and responses.

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

Consulted:

Local members:

Councillor Watson
Councillor Butlin
Councillor Dodd
Councillor Hazelton
Councillor Morris-Jones
Councillor Robbins
Councillor Roodhouse
Councillor Timms
Councillor Vereker
Councillor Walton
Councillor Wright

Legal: Fay Ford *"comments incorporated into the report"* Barry Jukes

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

Rugby Borough Council

Mark Pawsey, MP

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