

Decision Record – Lillington Primary School, Leamington

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision:

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

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 16 December 2011)

16 December 2011

Decision taken

I, as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools, authorises the Strategic Director, People Group, to consult on a proposal to increase the Pupil Admission Number of Lillington Primary School from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2013 admissions.

Reasons for Decision

- 1.1 At their meeting in July, Cabinet gave permission for consultation to take place on proposals to expand a number of primary schools across the county in response to an increase in the birth-rate.
- 1.2 Northern Leamington Spa has seen a significant growth in births and initially, Cabinet were made aware of a possible expansion of Lillington Primary School by half a form of entry, meaning that the school would admit up to 45 rather than 30 pupils per year group. However, the latest pupil forecasts suggest that there will be an even greater demand for places and that to increase the number of primary school places by 15 per year group will not be sufficient.
- 1.3 Other factors need to be considered, not least the percentage of children securing places at schools in the area who travel from elsewhere. In September 2010 there were a total of 38 children admitted to reception classes from outside the area. Clearly, out of area children will not be a high priority for places in schools as pressure on places continues to increase, but forecasts still suggest, that even if we disregard the out of area pupils, there will be insufficient primary school places in the north Leamington area unless action is taken.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions -

Background/Proposal

- 2.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure a sufficiency of school places.
- 2.2 The Local Authority has begun discussions with the Governors of Lillington Primary School who are supportive of consulting on a proposal to expand the school and the opportunities this will bring.

- 2.3 To ensure there are sufficient places in the area longer term, the Local Authority is keen to consult on a proposal to increase the PAN of Lillington Primary School from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2013. Although this proposal would require statutory consultation, it would allow the LA an opportunity to look at the current use of accommodation and consider options for re-modelling the school. Further work will need to take place in discussion with the school to fully explore the opportunities this proposal offers, whilst being realistic about the financial pressures on the County Council and the capital programme.

3. Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps

- 3.1 If permission is given to consult on a proposal to increase the PAN of the school, formal consultation would take place during January and February 2012.
- 3.2 A report detailing the findings of the consultation would be presented to Lead Portfolio Holder in March and subsequent statutory notices issued, if deemed appropriate, in April 2012.
- 3.3 The outcome of the statutory consultation would be considered by Members for final decision in May or June 2012.
- 3.4 At the same time as the statutory consultation process regarding the proposed increase, discussions will take place with the school to consider design options to accommodate the proposed increase. Options for funding to support the increase will be considered with requests for approval of capital being made to Members as appropriate.
- 3.5 The increase, if approved, would be introduced with effect from September 2013.

Financial Implications

£1.4m was initially identified in the 2011/12 capital programme to support the expansion of Lillington Primary school. However, this cost was based on expanding the school by 15 places per year group rather than 30. The cost of the build will need to be re-assessed on the basis of the proposal to increase the school by one form of entry and costs will be notified in a future report to Members as part of the consultation process.

Background Papers

1. Cabinet Report 14 July 2011, School Capital Programme 2011/12.

Report Author:	Janet Neale
Head of Service:	Mark Gore
Strategic Director:	Wendy Fabbro
Portfolio Holder	Cllr 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 to Portfolio Holder

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

Cabinet Report 14 July 2011, School Capital Programme 2011/12.

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

Consulted:

Local Members: Cllrs Eithne Goode and Sarah Boad

Portfolio Holder : Cllr Heather Timms (decision maker)

Legal: Fay Ford, Victoria Gould, Barry Juckes, Naomi Bentley-Lawson

Finance: Chris Norton

For information:

O&S spokespersons: Cllr June Tandy, Cllr Balaam, Cllr Clive Rickhards, Cllr John Ross