

## **Cabinet Portfolio Holder (Child Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Schools)**

### **Decision to be taken on or after 24 February 2012**

#### **Emscote Infant School, Warwick**

##### **Recommendation**

That the Strategic Director for the People Group be authorised to consult on a proposal to increase the Planned Admission Number (PAN) of Emscote Infant School from 60 to 75 with effect from September 2013 admissions.

##### **1.0 Key Issues**

- 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 Warwick has seen a significant growth in births and Cabinet will be aware that Newburgh School has already increased its admission from 30 to 60. This increase has been supported by a build project which is scheduled to be completed for September 2013.
- 1.3 In July 2011, Cabinet were made aware of a number of further possible primary school expansions including that of Emscote Infant School by half a form of entry, meaning that the school would admit up to 75 rather than 60 pupils per year group.
- 1.4 Other factors have been considered, not least the percentage of children securing places at schools in the area who travel from elsewhere. Clearly, out of area children will not be a high priority for entry to 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 Warwick unless action is taken.
- 1.5 It is the view of officers that pupil numbers in Warwick requires the provision of additional primary places. Emscote Infant School has been identified as the most appropriate school for a number of reasons. Emscote Infant is a popular school and has been judged to be "good" by Ofsted. In addition the PCT data shows that the majority of children will be living within a reasonable distance of the school and that its expansion will help to ensure that sufficient places are available locally. Other options were considered but were not considered viable solutions.
- 1.6 The Local Authority maintains a statutory responsibility for ensuring a sufficiency of school places. To support this function, pupil forecasts are

produced annually and this information will inform the on-going work to ensure a sufficiency of school places across the county.

## 2.0 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 Emscote Infant 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 Emscote Infant School from 60 to 75 with effect from September 2013.
- 2.4 It should be noted that £656,000 has been identified in the 2011/12 capital programme to support the expansion of Emscote Infant school.
- 2.5 If the proposal to increase the PAN at Emscote Infant School is approved, the LA will then look to bring forward a proposal to expand the partner junior school, All Saint's C E Junior School, Warwick.

## 3.0 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 March and April 2012.
- 3.2 A report detailing the findings of the consultation would be presented to Cabinet in May. If Members were supportive of the proposal, statutory notices would have to be issued.
- 3.3 The outcome of the statutory consultation would be considered by Members for final decision by June or July 2012.
- 3.4 At the same time as the statutory consultation process regarding the proposed increase, discussions would take place with the school to consider design options to accommodate the proposed increase.
- 3.5 The increase, if approved, would be introduced with effect from September 2013.

## Background Papers

1. Cabinet Report 14 July 2011, School Capital Programme 2011/12.
2. Cabinet Report 25 January 2012, Primary Expansion Programme.

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