

## Decision Record – Emscote Infant School Warwick

### Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision:

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

### Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 24 February 2012)

27 February 2012

### 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 Emscote Infant School from 60 to 75 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 Warwick has seen a significant growth in births and in July Cabinet were made aware of a possible expansion of Emscote Infant School by half a form of entry. Other factors have been considered, including the percentage of children securing places at schools in the area who travel from elsewhere. 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 out of area pupils, there will still be insufficient primary school places in Warwick unless action is taken.
- 1.3 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. It is a popular school and judged 'good' by Ofsted. 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 not found viable.

### 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 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 the School from 60 to 75 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 March and April 2012.
- 3.2 A report detailing the findings of the consultation would be presented to Cabinet in May and subsequent statutory notices issued.
- 3.3 The outcome of the statutory consultation would be considered by Members for final decision in June or July 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.
- 3.5 The increase, if approved, would be introduced with effect from September 2013.
- 3.6 If approved then we will look to bring forward a proposal to expand the partner junior school, All Saint's CE Junior School, Warwick.

### **Financial Implications**

£656,000 has been identified in the 2011/12 capital programme to support the expansion of the school.

### **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: Cllr Martyn Ashford,

Portfolio Holder : Cllr Heather Timms (decision maker)

Corporate Board

Tejay Krester (Equalities & Diversity officer)

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

Finance: John Betts, Vicki Barnard

Property: John Harmon

For information:

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