

## **Portfolio Holder (Children and Schools) Decision Making Session**

**21 December 2012**

### **Proposal to Increase the Published Admission Number of Quinton Primary School.**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

1. That the Strategic Director for People Group be authorised to consult on a proposal to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Quinton Primary School from 15 to 30 with effect from September 2013 admissions.

#### **1.0 Key Issues**

- 1.1 Quinton Primary School currently has an admission number of 15 and a net capacity of 105. Numbers of children within the school priority area have increased over recent years and in September 2011 the school admitted 6 children above PAN giving a total of 21 in Reception. Quinton Primary is a community school and Governors have no plans to consider conversion to and Academy school at present.
- 1.2 Numbers were again high in September 2012 and the school agreed to take above PAN for the second year running with 22 places having been offered for entry to reception in September 2012. Numbers in the nursery are increasing year on year.
- 1.3 Although to date the school has been able to cope with taking higher numbers this will impact on the existing accommodation as smaller numbers leave the school when Year 6 transfer to secondary school. Unless there is a significant change to the existing reception class numbers and those projected for September 2013 onwards, the school will require an additional teaching space by September 2013.
- 1.4 Quinton Primary School is located in the village of Lower Quinton and is some considerable distance from any other primary schools. The nearest Warwickshire primary school is Welford on Avon CE Primary School which is almost 5 miles away with schools in Stratford upon Avon being a little over 6 miles away. Public transport from Lower Quinton is limited and a shortage of places in the village would cause considerable inconvenience for local residents.
- 1.5 A further consideration is the proposal to build 500 homes on land at Long Marston. Quinton Primary School is within 2 miles of the proposed

development and could be considered for expansion to support the additional children generated from the new housing.

## **2.0 The Options and Benefits**

- 2.1 If additional buildings are not provided at Quinton Primary School for September 2013, the school will not be able to admit up to its existing Published Admission Number of 15. This will have an adverse impact on local families who will be unable to secure a place at their school. Families would need to travel a minimum of 5 miles to secure a place at another Warwickshire Primary School.
- 2.2 Temporary buildings could be used to solve the space issue short term although this is not likely to be an attractive proposal for the school or local parents. If numbers continue to remain high as we expect them to the Authority will still need to look at permanent expansion and costs associated with temporary accommodation will have been wasted.
- 2.3 It is possible to simply provide an additional classroom to allow the school to cater for the number of children it currently has on roll and then limit future admissions to the current Published Admission Number of 15. However, this will not provide sufficient places locally. An increase in the PAN to 30 per year group will provide some flexibility in the area and enable the school to plan more effectively with single age class groups rather than the need to mix across the key stages.
- 2.4 A permanent expansion of Quinton Primary School will ensure that the Local Authority is able to meet its statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. Numbers entering the nursery at the school show an increase in the percentage of local children choosing to secure places within the school and we have reason to believe that our current pupil forecasts for the school are possibly a little low as the increase in popularity has not yet fed through fully.

## **3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure a sufficiency of school places.
- 3.2 Discussions have taken place with the Head and Governors of Quinton Primary and they are supportive of consulting on a proposal to increase the School and the opportunities this will bring. It should be noted that County Councillor Mrs Seccombe is also happy to endorse the proposal.
- 3.3 To ensure there are sufficient places in the area longer term, the Local Authority is seeking to consult on a proposal to increase the PAN of Quinton Primary School from 15 to 30 with effect from September 2013.
- 3.4 A number of options have been considered about how best to ensure a sufficiency of school places and these include the use of temporary accommodation, however, it should be noted that £1,250,000 has been

identified in the 2012/13 capital programme to support the expansion of Quinton Primary School.

#### **4.0 Timescales associated with the decision and 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 2013.
- 3.2 A report detailing the findings of the consultation would be presented to Cabinet in March 2013. 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 2013.
- 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
3. Cabinet Report 22 November 2012, Peoples Group, Learning and Achievement (Schools) Capital Programme 2012-2013

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