

## **Minutes of Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session held on 26 November 2009**

### **Present:**

Councillor Mrs Izzi Seccombe Portfolio Holder (Chair)

### **Others present**

Councillor Clare Hopkinson

### Officers

Phil Astle (Children Young People and Families Directorate)

Jane Pollard (Democratic Services Manager)

### Public

Ian Amis (Governor Westgate Primary School)

## **1. General**

### **(1) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

## **2. Primary School Places in Warwick**

Councillor Mrs Seccombe was asked to consider a report of the Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families seeking approval to undertake a formal consultation on proposals to expand Newburgh Primary School to meet the demand for school places in Warwick. She invited Mr Phil Astle, Assistant Head of Service –Transforming Education, to explain the reasons for the proposal. Mr Astle highlighted the following from the report.

The number of primary aged pupils attending schools in the town of Warwick has grown in recent years initially as a result of new housing but more lately the impact of the new housing and a rise in the birth rate. Between 2008 and 2009 the reception age cohort saw an increase of 33 pupils from 268 to 301. Although the latest births data from the PCT had indicated a rise in reception year numbers for 2009, the reality exceeded forecast significantly, reaching numbers not forecast until at least 2011. The pupil forecast together with more general birth trend indicates that this is not a temporary phenomena and that additional primary school places are needed in Warwick to ensure that there will be sufficient to meet demand from the Warwick area.

In order to address the need for school places the Directorate is proposing that Newburgh Primary School should be expanded from 30 places per year, initially to 45 places and then to 60 places as the need for additional places arises. This would allow sufficient capacity for 2011 with the capability, subject to further consultation, to add further capacity as demand required.

This option was preferred for consultation as Newburgh was a popular school and the site had the necessary physical capacity to accommodate the expansion.

Mr Astle clarified that the planned timescale would be

Consultation on proposals	–	3 January - 28 February 2010
Warwick Area Committee	–	13 March 2010
Consideration by Portfolio Holder	–	April 2010
Statutory consultation	–	April - June 2010
Final report to Portfolio Holder	–	July 2010
Implementation of proposals	–	September 2011

Councillor Mrs Seccombe commented that in view of the projected increases in the numbers of children requiring primary school places outlined in the report she felt it was necessary for the local authority to take steps to address the pressures. The proposal was to consult to enable stakeholders, parents of existing and prospective pupils, local schools and others as outlined in the report to set out their views before any decision was made. She was satisfied that it was appropriate to commence a formal consultation.

### **Resolved**

That approval is given to undertake formal consultation upon proposals to expand Newburgh Primary School, Warwick, from 30 to 45 places per year with effect from September 2011.

### **3. Any other items**

None.

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Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families)

The meeting rose at 10.16 am