

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Decision-Maker Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session

Date of Meeting 4 December 2009

Report Title Primary School Places in Stratford-on-Avon District

Summary The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake formal consultations upon proposals to expand Bridge Town Primary School and increase the admission number of The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School.

For further information please contact: Phil Astle
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy No

Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]
Background papers

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Cabinet reports 16.10.08 and 2.4.09

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN: Details to be specified

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Cllr Kate Rolfe – Stratford South

“Cllr Cockings and I are not prepared to make comments about this at such short notice. We have been given no indication as to how Bridgetown School is to be expanded and we were unaware of this even being a consideration. I am the District Ward Member for Alveston and I also had no idea about this proposal. We need some time to consider these proposals and would appreciate more details”.

Cllr Ron Cockings – Stratford South
Cllr Chris Williams – Kineton

Other Elected Members CYP&F O&S Chair and Vice-Chair for information:
 Cllr John Ross
 Cllr Carolyn Robbins

CYP&F O&S Spokespersons for information:
 Cllr Peter Balaam
 Cllr Tim Naylor
 Cllr Carolyn Robbins

Cabinet Member Cllr Izzi Seccombe – “noted”

Other Cabinet Members consulted Cllr Martin Heatley

Chief Executive

Legal Diane Nation

Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources
 “*Oliver Winters comments incorporated into the report on behalf of David Clarke*”

Other Strategic Directors

District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **NO**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet Portfolio Holder April 2010

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee on 17.03.10 following consultation with stakeholders

Further Consultation All stakeholders (subject to Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s decision)

**Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families)
Decision Making Session – 4 December 2009**

Primary School Places in Stratford-Upon-Avon

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children,
Young People and Families**

Recommendation:

That approval is given to undertake formal consultation upon proposals to:

- i) Expand Bridge Town Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon, from 45 to 60 places per year with effect from September 2011.
- ii) Increase the admission number of The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School, Fenny Compton, from 25 to 30 places per year with effect from September 2011.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out proposals to expand Bridge Town Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon, from 45 to 60 places per year and increase the admission number of The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School in Fenny Compton from 25 to 30 places per year with effect from September 2011.

2. Background

Bridge Town Primary School

- 2.1 The town of Stratford-upon-Avon is served by eight primary schools, including St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, three Church of England voluntary controlled schools and four community primary schools.
- 2.2 Stratford has attracted significant numbers of new houses as the only town in South Warwickshire to be designated for large-scale housing developments. A large number of new houses have been built over the last 10 years and the number of additional children living in the town has resulted in some schools being full while others have year groups, or some classes, that are full.
- 2.3 Table 1 below sets out the number of pupils on roll in each primary school in Stratford in September 2009:

Table 1

Number of primary school pupils on roll and school capacities as at September 2009
(Source: September 2009 School Census)

School	Capacity	Number on roll Sep.2009	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	* PAN
Bishopton	210	140	23	25	24	18	13	16	21	30
Alveston	140	166	29	28	25	21	16	21	26	20
Thomas Jolyffe	420	384	51	58	52	57	63	48	55	60
The Willows	280	290	45	43	45	33	42	45	37	40
Bridge Town	315	310	46	44	46	43	37	48	46	45
Stratford	210	213	30	30	31	31	30	28	33	30
St. Gregory's	210	220	31	30	28	31	32	35	33	30
Shottery	70	75	13	9	11	9	12	7	14	10
Total	1,855	1,798	268	267	262	243	245	248	265	265

* PAN = the official Planned Admission Number

- 2.4 Three primary schools are currently operating above their physical capacity: Stratford Primary School, Shottery St. Andrew's C of E (Controlled) Primary School and St. Gregory's Catholic (Aided) Primary School. From 2009 Bishopton Primary School was expanded, increasing its capacity from 22 to 30 pupils per year. With effect from 2010 admissions the capacity of The Willows C of E (Controlled) School will increase from 40 to 45 places per year and the capacity of Alveston C of E (Controlled) School from 20 to 30 places per year.
- 2.5 Table 2 below shows that on the basis of the demographic and new housing information available, it is estimated that the number of primary school pupils in the town will exceed current total capacity of schools in the town by 2011:

Table 2

Forecast numbers of reception aged pupils up to 2013, including expected rise in pupil numbers resulting from housing development and building in the recommended margin of 5% contingency to allow for variations in the forecast

	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Forecast			
			2010	2011	2012	2013
Demographic	267	268	239	291	235	255
Housing (per year group)	n/a	n/a	2	4	11	18
5% Surplus required	n/a	n/a	14	14	14	14
Total Planned Demand	n/a	n/a	255	309	260	287
Capacity	258	265	280	280	280	280
Surplus	-9	-3	25	-29	20	-7

Notes:

- *Based on existing expansions at Bishopton from 2009 and The Willows and Alveston from 2010.*
- *Housing developments include minor developments on Birmingham Road and the Cattlemarket Site and major sites from 2012 include the Egg Packing Station, Kipling Road and Shottery Fields.*
- *A surplus capacity of 5% is recommended for areas of potential growth, e.g. for new housing to provide some flexibility.*

2.6 In September 2008 the current Reception year capacity of Stratford town schools was exceeded and was managed mainly by Bishopton Primary School and The Willows and Alveston schools admitting above their published admission limits. In 2009, the situation was much the same, although Bishopton Primary School had been expanded. The 2010 cohort is forecast to be a smaller cohort than the previous two and the expansion of The Willows and Alveston Primary schools will have been completed. A large Reception cohort of 295 pupils is forecast for 2011, some 15 above the agreed Reception year capacity.

2.7 As well as ensuring that there are enough school places across the town, there is also an issue about whether the current school places are located where they are needed. Families should be able to secure a school place in a local school within a reasonable distance from their home. In the town of Stratford there is a degree of 'cross over' of pupils, with pupils living in one priority area attending a school in another area. Whilst most of this is due to parental preference, it can also happen if a school is unable to provide places for all of the children in its priority area. There is a particular problem in relation to Bridge Town Primary School where, due to new housing developments close to the school, it was unable to admit all of the applicants from its priority area for admission to the Reception year group in September 2008 and September 2009.

3. Reasons for the Proposal

3.1 Bridge Town Primary School is a popular and successful one and a half form (45 places per year) primary school serving a large geographical area comprising Stratford –east of the river to the Tiddington Road, Loxley Road – and the Parishes of Atherstone-on-Stour, Clifford Chambers and Preston-on-Stour (excluding Sweet Knowle). Earlier in 2009 it was agreed that the Parish of Clifford Chambers would transfer to the priority area of Welford Primary School with effect from 2010 admissions. The population of Bridge town's priority area has increased significantly as a result of a large new housing development very close to the school. A further phase of the development with some 100 dwellings is likely to come forward shortly, further exacerbating the demand for school places at Bridge Town Primary.

3.2 The school currently has 310 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 45 pupils per year, a capacity of 315 pupils. Table 3 below sets out the number of pupils in each year group and shows the school to be above its admission number in four out of seven year groups. The school has a private Early Years provider on site.

Table 3

Number of pupils on roll at Bridge Town Primary School – November 2009

	School year								
	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total	Capacity
Pupils on roll	46	44	46	43	37	48	46	310	45

Source: School and DCSF

- 3.3 In 2008 there were 61 applications from pupils living in the school's priority area for 45 reception places and therefore 16 'in area' pupils were refused admission including pupils living in Clifford Chambers. The situation for 2009 is that there were 83 applications from pupils living in the school's priority area for 45 reception places and therefore 38 'in area' pupils were refused admission. Initial information on school preferences for September 2010 admissions suggests that even with a much lower cohort the school will be oversubscribed.
- 3.4 In order to address the need for school places within its priority area it is proposed to expand Bridge Town Primary School from 45 places per year to 60 places per year with effect from September 2011 admissions.
- 3.5 A feasibility study carried out earlier this year indicates that Bridge Town Primary School could be extended to accommodate two forms of entry (60 pupils per year). It is considered that a two form entry school would, over time, assist the school in organising its classes into single age groups.
- 3.6 The table below shows current and past numbers on roll at this school:

Table 4

Total number of pupils on roll at Bridge Town Primary School

Year	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Autumn 2009
Pupils on roll	280	301	306	307	309	310

4. Building

- 4.1 It is proposed to extend the school in line with the planned increase in admission number referred to in paragraph 3.4.
- 4.2 Subject to the outcome of this report design of the new accommodation will be undertaken in consultation with representatives of the school with a view to providing sufficient accommodation for an intake of 60 pupils from September 2011.

5. Funding

- 5.1 The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately £1,500,000. It is proposed that this project is funded from the schools capital programme and any Section 106 contributions. 'Basic Need' projects are the first priority for use of capital funding. The revenue implications will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6. The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School

- 6.1 The Governing Body of The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School wishes to increase the admission number of the school from 25 to 30 places per year with effect from September 2011 admissions. The school currently has a capacity of 175 pupils with 177 pupils on roll. However, the school is popular and oversubscribed and believes that it can accommodate up to 30 pupils in each class, which it already does in some cases. There is a housing development of some 12 homes planned for Station Road in the village. An intake of 30 pupils per year would enable the school to accommodate the additional pupils from this development and provide additional income for the school to fund its current staffing class organisation.
- 6.2 The school traditionally takes 92% of its intake from its own priority area and pupil numbers in the area are forecast to be stable over the current planning period.
- 6.3 The proposal is being considered on the basis that there are no capital implications with regards to providing additional accommodation.

Table 5

Total number of pupils on roll at The Dasset C of E (Controlled) Primary School

Year	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Autumn 2009	Capacity
Pupils on roll	183	176	182	175

7. Consultation

- 7.1 It will be necessary to consult key stakeholders including staff, existing parents and the parents of prospective pupils, local schools, the Pupil School Council, Diocesan Authorities, local schools, other local admission Authorities, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Parish Councils in Stratford-on-Avon District, neighbouring Local Authorities and Members of Parliament.
- 7.2 The outcome of formal consultations would be reported back to Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee in March 2010 for comment and then to the Portfolio Holder for consideration.

8. Planned Timescale

8.1 The key milestones, subject to responses at each stage, are as follows:

- Consultation on proposals – 1 January 2010 - 28 February 2010
- Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee – 17 March 2010
- Final consideration by Portfolio Holder – April 2010
- Statutory Notices published * – May to June 2010
- Implementation of proposals – September 2011

**Bridge Town proposal only*

9. Summary

- 9.1 There is a demonstrated need for additional primary school places in Stratford and it is proposed to consult stakeholders on proposals to expand Bridge Town Primary School to accommodate these.
- 9.2 The request from the Governing Body of The Dassetts Cof E (Controlled) Primary School to increase its admission number would improve the school's operation and enable it to ensure it can continue to meet the demand for places from the local area.

MARION DAVIS
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Young People and Families

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23 November 2009