

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Decision making session **Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families) Decision Making Session**

Date of Decision **25 March 2010**

Report Title **Primary School Places in Warwick**

Summary This report gives details of the response to the consultation on the proposal to provide additional primary school places at Newburgh Primary School.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background papers

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Portfolio Holder Report 26.11.09
- Warwick Area Committee Report 16.03.10
- Formal Consultation Paper

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

Other Committees Portfolio Holder (CYPF) Decision Making Session 26.11.09
Warwick Area Committee 16.03.10

Local Member(s) Cllr Clare Hopkinson – Warwick West *“I do not have any objections to Newburgh school expanding”*

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 (Decision Maker)
Cllr Martin Heatley *(for property/finance)*

Chief Executive

Legal Fay Ford “no comments”
Barry Juckes

Finance David Clarke, Strategic Director of Resources

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- Other Chief Officers
- 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
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Portfolio Holder (Children, Young People and Families)
Decision Making Session**

25 March 2010

Primary School Places in Warwick

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

Recommendations

That the Portfolio Holder:

- i) considers the response to formal consultation on proposals to increase the capacity of Newburgh Primary School from 30 to 45 places per year with effect from 1 September 2011;
- ii) approves the proposal including the introduction of the higher admission limit to Key Stage 1 only in the first instance and moving progressively through Key Stage 2 from 2012 onwards;
- iii) approves the publication of statutory notices.

1. Introduction

1.1 On 26 November 2009 the Portfolio Holder agreed to the Strategic Director carrying out formal consultation with stakeholders on proposals to expand Newburgh Primary School.

2. Background

2.1 Currently, the town of Warwick is served by eight primary schools, including St Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School and All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School and six Community primary schools.

2.2 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 also, more lately, because of a rise in the birth rate. Between 2008 and 2009 the reception age cohort saw an increase of 33 pupils from 268 to 301. The pupil forecast together with more general birth trend indicates that this is not a temporary phenomenon and that additional primary school places are needed in Warwick to ensure that there will be sufficient to meet demand from the Warwick area.

2.3 Table 1 below sets out the number of pupils on roll in each primary school in Warwick 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
Westgate Primary	210	133	30	18	14	21	10	20	20	30
Newburgh Primary	210	199	30	26	26	31	30	24	32	30
Budbrooke Primary	315	274	47	48	41	38	31	34	35	45
Emscote Infant	180	160	60	59	41					60
St .Mary Immaculate (Catholic Aided) Primary	105	82	16	12	12	11	11	8	12	15
Woodloes Primary	420	314	58	46	37	41	42	50	40	60
All Saints C of E Controlled Primary	240	171				56	28	38	49	60**
Coten End Primary	420	436	60	59	59	64	64	66	64	60
Total	2100	1769	301	268	230	262	216	240	252	300

* PAN = the official Planned Admission Number

** Key Stage 2 not reception (so not included in total)

- 2.4 Coten End Primary School is the only school that is currently full. However, the only schools with significant capacity are Westgate Primary School and Woodloes Primary. However, the dramatic increase from the 268 reception pupils in 2008 to 301 pupils in 2009 is important as virtually all of the surplus capacity that exists is in the older year groups. With only 300 reception places across the Warwick schools, the only reception places now available are two vacancies at Woodloes Primary School (St. Mary Immaculate having taken one pupil above its admission number and Budbrooke 2 pupils).
- 2.5 Recent changes to schools in Warwick include the amalgamation of Woodloes Infant School and Woodloes Junior School in September 2009 (with the same pupil admission number of 60); the expansion of Budbrooke Primary School from 40 to 45 places per year with effect from 2008; and St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School will increase its admission number from 15 to 20 pupils per year from September 2010.
- 2.6 In addition to the rise in birth rate in the town, further demand for places in all age groups can be expected from further new housing. The approximate number of homes to be completed on major housing developments, already with planning permission, in the Warwick area and which have been included in Table 3 is as follows:

*Table 2
New housing planned for Warwick*

South-West Warwick	369
Cape Road	47
Pottertons	47

- 2.7 The south-west Warwick housing development is in the priority area of Newburgh Primary School and is now attracting the overwhelming majority of pupils from the development which has over 350 houses still to be built.
- 2.8 Table 3 below shows the rise in demand for reception places in recent years and the underlying demographic and new housing information available. It is estimated that even by increasing Newburgh Primary School by 15 reception places from 2011, the number of primary reception places (320) will give a surplus of only 5% which gives little flexibility in the system.

Table 3

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	Actual	Actual 2009	Forecast			
	2007	2008		2010	2011	2012	2013
Demographic	231	286	277	294	299	299	297
Housing (per year group)*	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	6	9	12
5% Surplus required	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	15	15	15
Total Planned Demand	228	268	301	312	320	323	324
Capacity	300	300	300	305**	305	305	305
Surplus	72	32	-1	-7	-15	-18	-19

* Based on major developments already with planning permission only

** St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Primary School increases its PAN from 15 to 20 wef September 2010

3. Newburgh Primary School

- 3.1 In order to address the need for school places it is proposed to expand Newburgh Primary School from 30 places per year first to 45 places and then to 60 places as the need for places arise. This would allow sufficient capacity for 2011 with the capability, subject to further consultation, to add further capacity as demand required.
- 3.2 Newburgh Primary School is a Community primary school serving the south-west of Warwick. The school currently has 199 pupils on roll, an admission limit of 30 pupils per year, and a capacity of 210 pupils. The school has a private early years provider on site and shares children centre provision with Westgate Primary School.
- 3.3 The tables below show current and past numbers on roll at this school:

Table 4

Number of pupils on roll at Newburgh Primary School – November 2009

	School year							Total	Capacity
	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6		
Pupils on roll	30	26	26	31	30	24	32	199	210

Source : School and DCSF

*Table 5
Total number of pupils on roll at Newburgh Primary School*

Year	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Autumn 2009
Pupils on roll	145	141	148	161	179	199

- 3.4 The demand for places at Newburgh Primary School has increased significantly over the last few years with the school's performance recognised by OfSTED as 'good with numerous outstanding features' and all grades in the report above the 'satisfactory' level. The school is now popular and the OfSTED report also noted that 'parental satisfaction with the school far exceeds that seen in most other schools'. The school was oversubscribed in 2009, and the latest data on applications for admission for September 2010 shows that the school will be oversubscribed with pupils living in its priority area. Four of the school's seven year groups are already full and the school is currently turning away pupils from within its priority area where families need places in more than one year group. Two parents removed children from the school when they could not secure a place for a child in the 2009 Reception Year.
- 3.5 The south-west Newburgh Warwick housing development in the priority area of the school is now attracting the overwhelming majority of pupils from the development. Other schools in the town are also benefiting from higher pupil numbers and although this proposal may have an effect on pupil numbers in other schools in the short term; particularly if the slow down in the housing market continues after 2010, this proposal is unlikely to have a significant long term negative effect. The overriding concern is that the current supply of school places appears insufficient to meet forecast pupil demand.

4. Building

- 4.1 The 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 45 pupils from September 2011, rising to an intake of 60 pupils when needed. It is intended that the build will be completed in a single phase.

5. Funding

- 5.1 The total cost of the project is estimated at approximately £2,250,000. It is intended that the cost of the project would be funded from the 2010/2011 capital programme.
- 5.2 The Children, Young People & Families Directorate's proposed Capital Programme will be considered by Cabinet on 11 March 2010 and will then need full Council approval before funding is confirmed. If the proposed capital programme is not approved the financing of this scheme will need to be reconsidered.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Formal consultations with stakeholders took place between 4 January and 28 February 2010. A consultation paper was sent to stakeholders including staff, existing parents and the parents of prospective pupils, local schools, the pupil School Council of Newburgh Primary School, Diocesan Authorities, local schools, other local admission authorities, Warwick District Council and Parish Councils in Warwick District, neighbouring Local Authorities and the Member of Parliament.
- 6.2 A summary of responses received to date, with comments, is set out below. Copies of all responses have been placed in the Members' Group Rooms.

The Chair of Governors of Newburgh Primary School

The Chair makes the following points:

- The demand for places at the school has increased significantly in the last few years due to a number of factors including the school's latest OfSTED report which described it as 'good with outstanding features'.
- The school is oversubscribed with a number of pupils living in the priority area being unable to gain a place or families moving into the priority area where not all children in a family could be accommodated.
- The school should be able to serve all of the pupils from its own priority area.
- The physical enlargement of the school should be completed in one phase to avoid disruption and health and safety issues.

Comment

It is intended that the project would be completed in one phase.

Westgate Primary School

- The proposal to extend another primary school so close to Westgate Primary would cause significant disruption to the continued growth and stability of the school.
- There is no need to expand all your groups at Newburgh Primary School as the justification of the proposals is the increase reception cohorts entering the school.
- There are only 85 additional houses to be built at south-west Warwick not 369 as stated.
- There is already 15% over capacity in primary schools in Warwick.
- Key stage 2 capacity is not needed.
- The overcapacity is significantly in schools identified as 'good' by OfSTED.
- The capital expenditure proposed is hugely disproportionate.
- Cost could be reduced by providing temporary classrooms at £53,500 + VAT.
- Minimising costs would free up capital expenditure for other schools in the town.
- Governors request rejection of the proposals and a further review of the analysis and approach.

A letter from a resident of west Warwick and a parent of Westgate School makes much the same comment on the proposal including a concern that the proposal will add to surplus places in the town at a time when the County Council is under pressure from Central Government to reduce surplus accommodation.

Comment

There has been a very significant increase in reception cohorts in the Warwick area from 228 in September 2007 to 301 in September 2009, the equivalent of nearly 2.5 reception classes. For admissions to reception in 2009, this left the County Council with only 2 places in the town. This trend in pupil numbers is forecast to continue and there are some 450 houses plus to be built in the town over the next few years. New housing can produce an increase in pupil numbers across all age groups, although it tends to produce mostly younger pupils in the first instance.

The proposal acknowledges that there may be some impact in the short term on the number of pupils admitted to other local schools. In response to this representation to minimise the short term impact of an increase in pupil admissions to Newburgh School on other local primary schools, it is proposed that the increase to the admission number from 30 – 45 places should only apply to Key stage 1 from 2011. The increase to 45 places would then progress from Y2 to Y3 etc from 2012 onwards until it relates to the whole of Key stage 2. This would provide additional places for the acute 2009, 2010 and 2011 cohorts and reduce the potential impact on other local schools.

If additional capacity is not provided the Authority could find itself in the untenable position of not being able to accommodate pupils in the town with a school place, particularly in the reception year group.

Newburgh School is already oversubscribed for its own priority area and this oversubscription will increase as the development at south-west Warwick grows. There is no surplus classroom accommodation at Newburgh Primary School.

With regard to the south-west Warwick development, Warwick District Council has confirmed that at its latest survey there were over 300 houses planned but not started and 52 homes under construction. This does include houses for which Warwickshire County Council has an expired planning permission but it is the District Council's clear view that an application for a similar numbers of houses will go ahead.

While there is a role for temporary classrooms in some situations, they are by their nature 'temporary' and for example will usually receive planning permission for a maximum of two years. The cost of temporary classrooms is estimated to be more in the region of £80,000 when you take into account the cost of foundations, drains, paths and connecting to services and ICT and they have a shorter life span and require greater maintenance than permanent classrooms over their life cycle. Temporary classrooms are also more difficult to integrate with existing permanent build as would be the case here.

The provision of temporary classrooms could have been an option if the increase in pupil numbers were predicted to be a blip. The pupil forecasts, however, indicate that the rise in the number of births will be prolonged and therefore the proposal is to provide high quality accommodation for the longer term.

Although the school calls for further time to consider options, the fact is that options are extremely limited in that none of the other Warwick schools, including Westgate School itself, can provide the additional pupil capacity needed to address the issue. It is intended that the phasing of the introduction of the change in the admission number between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, in addition to the phasing of the change from 45 to 60 pupils, will help alleviate understandable concerns about the impact of the proposals on Westgate Primary School.

Staff of Newburgh Primary School

The staff of the school made the following points:

- Fully support the proposal.
- Parental demand for the school has grown significantly in recent years.
- A number of families have had to go to appeal for places.
- Many classes are now full.
- Expanding the school will enable it to improve the resources available to all children.
- The school is already active in the community and the proposal will enable it serve the community to an even greater extent.
- The school is well placed to provide much needed school places for a growing Warwick.

Governor of Newburgh Primary School

A community Governor and a parent of 2 children write in support of the proposal:

- Represents recognition of the school's hard work in recent years.

- Pleased that draft plans seem to embrace the school's community focus and also with the location of car parking and delivery points.

Pathways Pre –School at Newburgh School

The owner states that:

- The last four years has seen significant improvements in the quality of teaching, pupil behaviour and the learning environment of the primary school.
- Numbers of children in the nursery have increased and there seems to be a demand for more pupils to continue into the primary school.
- Expanding the school would be a wise investment.

Parent of Prospective Pupil

- Delighted by the proposal and offers support.
- Building work should be carried out over shortest time possible.
- A pelican crossing is needed near the Stratford Road/Shakespeare Avenue crossroads as the current crossing place is not adequate.
- The Aylesford School access road should be in place before the expansion is completed to avoid local traffic being increased.

Comment

A Traffic Impact Assessment survey will usually be carried out as part of the planning application. The school is intended to serve the local area and not to attract traffic from any distance. It will take some years for pupil numbers to build up, mainly growing from reception initially.

A Resident

One resident raised the following points:

- Concern that local residents have not been consulted.
- Parking is already a problem outside school at the start and end of the school day and if the school has a function. No parking spaces available and driveways sometimes blocked.
- Wishes to be kept informed of developments.

Comment

Consultations on the impact on residents forms part of the planning application stage and would be picked up at that point. The Authority will usually be required to produce a Traffic Impact Assessment and a Green Travel Plan which shows how pupils will be encouraged to walk to school. Residents are not one of the prescribed stakeholder groups which the Department for Schools, Children and Families requires Local Authorities to consult at this stage with regard to school organisation proposals.

The provision of school places at a local school should mean that the vast majority of pupils will live nearby and should not require travel to school by car. Further, the alternative of providing places for pupils living in the Newburgh area, including the south-west Warwick development elsewhere in the town would certainly produce more travel by car and travel into and perhaps through this town at peak times.

A parent of Newburgh School

- Supports the expansion of the school which has flourished under the current leadership.
- Important that parents can attend their local school.
- School is popular and there is on-going housing development in the local area.

- More school places locally will help reduce traffic.
- Experience suggests that disruption during build will be minimal and well managed.

6.3 Any comments forwarded from Warwick Area Committee, which is due to consider this matter at its meeting on 16 March 2010, will be reported verbally to the Portfolio Holder.

7. Planned timescale

7.1 As the proposal represents a significant increase in the admission number and includes building work, the proposal would be subject to statutory proposals.

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

Consideration by Portfolio Holder	– 25 March 2010
Statutory consultation	– April - June 2010
Final report to Portfolio Holder	– July 2010
Implementation of proposals	– September 2011

8. Summary

8.1 The report gives details of the response to the consultation on the proposal to provide additional primary school places at Newburgh Primary School. The proposal has the strong support of the Governing Body and staff of Newburgh Primary School and all of the parents of the school which have responded. The only objections to the proposal are from the neighbouring Westgate Primary School and a resident near Newburgh School. In response to the concerns raised by Westgate Primary School it is proposed to further stage the introduction of the higher admission limit and this too has the support of Newburgh Primary School. Given the need for primary school places in Warwick and in light of the comments received, the Portfolio Holder is asked to consider approving the proposal so that the necessary statutory notices can be issued.

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Strategic Director for Children, Young People and Families

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11 March 2010