

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Report Title** Proposal to consolidate Paddock Primary School, Rugby, on to one site

**Summary** This report informs the Area Committee of the feedback received as a result of the consultation on proposals to consolidate Paddock Primary School, Rugby, on to one site and gives the Area Committee an opportunity to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

**For further information please contact:** Phil Astle  
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Tel: 01926 742166  
philastle@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]** No

**Background papers**

- School Organisation Plan 2003/08
- Cabinet report 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007
- Consultation document dated September 2007

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  Cllr Jerry Roodhouse – Eastlands and Hillmorton – “A corporate approach should be taken to the capital receipt as to the benefits to the wider community especially youth facilities. I support the move to a single site but it must also take account of extended schools status and new emerging ways of working in local areas.”  
Cllr Richard Dodd – Eastlands and Hillmorton

- Other Elected Members  Spokespersons for information:  
Cllr Heather Timms  
Cllr Richard Grant – “noted”  
Cllr John Whitehouse
- Cabinet Member  Cllr John Burton
- Other Cabinet Members consulted  Cllr Izzi Seccombe – “look forward to receiving the views of Rugby Area Committee”
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Richard Freeth – no comments to make
- Finance  .....
- Other Strategic Directors  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  All stakeholders

**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  .....

## Rugby Area Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007

### Proposal to consolidate Paddox Primary School, Rugby, on to one site

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

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Area Committee is asked for any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet on the proposal to consolidate Paddox Primary School, Rugby, on to one site.

#### **1. Introduction**

The governing body of Paddox Primary School wishes to consolidate the infant and junior phases on to one site. At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Cabinet agreed to consult stakeholders on the proposal.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The plan is to refurbish and extend the existing junior phase building of Paddox Primary School to accommodate the whole school on a single site.
- 2.2 The governing body of Paddox Primary School has indicated that they support the proposal to bring the whole school together on one site.
- 2.3 Paddox Primary School came into being following the amalgamation of Paddox First and Middle Schools in 1996. Since that time the school has continued to operate in two buildings on either side of Fareham Avenue. A map showing the location of the two sites is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- 2.4 The school has an admission number of 60 and a physical capacity of 420 pupils. At the start of September 2007, the school has 403 pupils on roll.

*Table 1: A detailed breakdown of pupil numbers*

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Total no. of pupils on roll</b>
54	56	60	55	61	61	56	403

Source: Paddox Primary School

- 2.5 Pupil numbers at the school are forecast to remain stable for the foreseeable future.

### **3. Key issues**

- 3.1 The headteacher and governors believe that the split site operation is hindering further progress at the school and this view is supported by officers. The current arrangements present a difficulty in creating a 'single school feel' that supports the continuity of pupil progress through the school. Also, time is being lost to staff and pupils through having to move between sites, and managing a school across two sites presents additional difficulties for the Head and Leadership Team. There are also significant additional costs in running two buildings that reduces the resources available for teaching and learning resources.

- 3.2 There are two early years' providers currently based at the infant phase site, The Squirrel Pre-School providing term-time only sessional care for 30 children and Holly Lodge providing full day-care for 95 children 51 weeks per year. Provision would also be made for these two providers to move to the junior site.

### **3.3 The buildings**

- 3.3.1 The proposal is to provide 14 class bases for Reception through to Year 6, separate nursery provision, library, ICT base, support and group rooms for small group work and withdrawal, specialist areas to support art and technology, staff accommodation, secure reception facilities and disabled access to all areas of the building.

- 3.3.2 Existing dining, PE, changing and music spaces will remain unchanged.

- 3.3.3 The necessary accommodation could be provided by extension and alteration of the existing junior building. Extensions would provide nursery and early years accommodation while the remainder of the building would be altered to provide enclosed classroom and support spaces. Additional play areas would be provided for early years and additional security measures incorporated to separate the school from the adjacent youth and community centre and to provide discrete access to the early years unit.

### **3.4 Community and extended service provision**

- 3.4.1 The majority of community and extended service provision will be provided from the remodelled school facilities.
- 3.4.2 The junior phase site has more than sufficient playing fields and hard court areas, together with changing and shower facilities, to meet the needs of school and community-based sports provision.
- 3.4.3 The vacant caretaker bungalow on the junior phase site will be available to be used to support the extended services agenda.

### **3.5 Funding**

- 3.5.1 The resources to finance the necessary re-modelling and extension of the school buildings would be met in large part from the sale of the surplus buildings and land with additional resources coming from the Children, Young People and Families Directorate Capital Programme.
- 3.5.2 The cost of the project will depend on the outcome of the consultation and on negotiations with the school, but it is expected to cost in the region of £1.75 million.

## **4. Implications of the proposal**

The school will keep its existing admission number of 60 pupils per year and there will be no changes to the school's priority area. The infant school site would be vacated when the new accommodation was ready and the site sold, with the proceeds of sale reinvested in the refurbishment and extension of the junior phase building.

## **5. Feedback from the consultation**

- 5.1 A consultation paper was sent to all parents and carers of pupils at Paddox Primary School, the governing body and staff of the school, parents and staff of the two pre-school providers at the school, Borough Councillors, pupils of the Paddox School Council, the local Members, the local Member of Parliament and residents in roads adjacent to the school. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix B** to this report. The consultation period runs from 5<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
- 5.2 Two 'surgery' style consultation sessions were held at the school on the afternoon of Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September and the evening of Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September for parents and local residents when plans were on display at the school.

5.3 At the time of drafting this report, just those comments recorded at the consultation sessions and the comments of pupils on the School Council of Paddox School have been received. A copy of all responses has been placed in the Members' Group Rooms.

5.4 A summary of the responses received at the time of drafting this report is as follows:

#### **5.4.1 Consultation sessions for parents and carers, staff and residents held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September at the school**

The sessions revealed overwhelming support for the proposal from the 50 or so people attending. There is an appreciation, by parents in particular, that having all of the school on one site will enable the school to organise more effectively and benefit pupils. The two main concerns are access to the site at the start and end of the school day and future use of the infant school site.

##### **Comment**

*The driver behind this proposal is the educational benefit of the school all being together and the advantages this will bring in terms of access to specialist staff for all of the school, a better use of staff time and school resources, the development of a single one school ethos and greater continuity between the key stages. Access to the site will be eased by parents coming right on to the school site to drop off and collect pupils on foot (cars are not allowed at these times). Access issues will be dealt with as part of the planning process if agreement is given to take this project forward. The future of the infant site has been raised as an issue by parents as well as residents. The funding of this project is based on the assumption that the cost of building works would, in large part, be met from the sale of surplus buildings and land.*

#### **5.4.2 Paddox School Council**

Pupil representatives on the School Council again overwhelmingly support the proposal and the frequently used phrase is 'good idea'. The main concern seems to be playground provision in relation to the need to avoid overcrowding and concerns about older and younger pupils sharing playgrounds.

##### **Comment**

*The proposal will provide for separate playgrounds for Foundation Stage, infant and junior phases and the current playgrounds on the junior site to be enhanced to provide for the larger number of pupils it will cater for.*

## **6. Summary**

6.1 The plan is to accommodate the whole school on a single site. The head-teacher and governors consider that there are strong educational reasons for bringing the infant and junior phases on to one site and this view is supported by officers. The current arrangements do not support the continuity of pupil

progress through the school and staff time is being lost moving between sites. Managing a school across two sites presents additional difficulties for the Head and Leadership Team and reduces the resources available for teaching and learning.

- 6.2 Issues have been raised about the future use of the infant site. The funding of the proposal is based upon the disposal of surplus land and buildings on the infant site generating the largest share of the cost and if this cannot be realised the future of the project would be jeopardised.
- 6.3 On completion of the proposed works the former infant school site would be declared surplus to requirements by Children, Young People and Families Directorate, and marketing and subsequent disposal would be dealt with by the Estates Division of Resources Directorate. No decision has been made concerning the use of the infant school site.
- 6.4 The matter will be considered by Cabinet and any comments from the Area Committee, on the proposal, would be welcomed.

## **7. Recommendation**

That the Area Committee is asked for any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet on the proposal to consolidate Paddox Primary School on to one site.

MARION DAVIS  
Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families

Saltisford Office Park  
Ansell Way  
Warwick

24<sup>th</sup> September 2007



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**Warwickshire  
County Council**  
PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
SHIRE HALL WARWICK CV34 4RP  
Peter Ridley B Sc(Hons) FRICS MCIQB  
Director

Title:  
Paddox Primary School

Scale: 1:2500  
Grid Ref: 451930,273798  
Operator: MMAR  
Date: 02/02/2007





**Warwickshire County Council**

**Proposal to Consolidate Paddox Primary  
School on to one site**

**Consultation Paper**

**September 2007**

## THE PROPOSAL

1. The plan is to refurbish and extend the existing junior phase building of Paddox Primary School to accommodate the whole school on a single site.
2. The Governing Body of Paddox Primary School have indicated that they support the proposal to bring the whole school together on one site.

## BACKGROUND

3. Paddox Primary School came into being following the amalgamation of Paddox First and Middle Schools in 1996. Since that time the school has continued to operate in two buildings on either side of Fareham Avenue. A map showing the location of the two sites is shown over the page.
4. The school has an admission number of 60 and a physical capacity of 420 pupils. At the start of September 2007, the school will have 403 pupils on roll.

*Table 1: A detailed breakdown of pupil numbers*

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total no. of pupils on roll
54	56	60	55	61	61	56	403

Source: Paddox Primary School

5. Pupil numbers at the school are forecast to remain stable for the foreseeable future.

## WHY ARE THE CHANGES NECESSARY?

6. The headteacher and governors believe that the split site operation is hindering further progress at the school. The current arrangements present a difficulty in creating a 'single school feel' that supports the continuity of pupils' learning and development as they progress through the school. Time is being lost to staff and pupils through having to move between sites, and managing a school across two sites presents additional logistical difficulties for the head and leadership team. There are also significant additional costs in running two buildings that reduce the resources available for teaching and learning.
7. There are two early years providers currently based at the infant phase site, The Squirrels Pre-School providing term-time only sessional care for 30 children and Holly Lodge providing full day-care for 95 children 51 weeks per year. Provision would also be made for these two providers to move to the consolidated site.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGE?

8. The school will keep its existing admission number of 60 pupils per year and there will be no change to the school's priority area. The infant school site would be vacated when the new accommodation was ready and the site sold, with the proceeds of sale reinvested in the refurbishment and extension of the junior phase building.

## **WHEN WOULD THE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT?**

9. It is anticipated that, if approved, the earliest date the work could be completed is spring 2009.

## **SPECIFIC PROPOSALS:**

### **The Buildings**

10. The proposal is to provide 14 class bases for the Reception Year through to Year 6, separate nursery provision, library, ICT base, support and group rooms for small group work and withdrawal, specialist areas to support art and technology, staff accommodation, secure reception facilities and disabled access to all areas of the building.
11. Existing dining, PE, changing and music spaces will remain unchanged.
12. The necessary accommodation could be provided by extension and alteration of the existing junior building. Extensions would provide nursery and early years accommodation while the remainder of the building would be altered to provide enclosed classroom and support spaces. Additional play areas would be provided for early years and additional security measures incorporated to separate the school from the adjacent youth and community centre and to provide discrete access to the Early Years unit.

### **Community and Extended Service Provision**

13. The majority of community and extended service provision will be provided from the remodelled school facilities.
14. The junior phase site has more than sufficient playing fields and hard court areas, together with changing and shower facilities, to meet the needs of school and community-based sports provision.
15. The vacant caretaker bungalow on the junior phase site will be available to be used to support the extended services agenda.

### **Funding**

16. The resources to finance the necessary re-modelling and extension of the school buildings would be met in large part from the sale of the surplus buildings and land with additional resources coming from the Children, Young People and Families Directorate Capital Programme.
17. The cost of the project will depend on the outcome of consultation and on negotiations with the school, but is expected to cost in the region of £1.75 million.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

18. This consultation paper is being sent to all staff and parents/carers of existing and prospective pupils, the School Council and the Governing Body of Paddox Primary School, residents of adjacent roads and the Rugby Area Committee.

19. Two 'surgery' style consultation sessions will be held for parents/carers and local residents when the plans will be on display at the school.

These will be held on:

- **Monday 10 September** from 2pm to 4pm
- **Wednesday 12 September** from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Senior staff, governors and officers of Warwickshire County Council will be available at these sessions to further discuss the plans and the reasoning behind them.

## WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS

20. Please send your comments on the proposals in writing to:

Phil Astle  
Children, Young People and Families Directorate  
Saltisford Office Park  
Ansell Way  
Warwick  
CV34 4UL

by Wednesday 3 October 2007

21. At the end of the consultation period these proposals and a summary of all the comments received will be considered by the Rugby Area Committee and the Cabinet of Warwickshire County Council.

