

Portfolio Holder Decision

Date: Friday 11 October 2024
Time: 12.00 pm
Venue: Virtual

Membership

Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE
Councillor Margaret Bell
Councillor Peter Butlin
Councillor Andy Crump
Councillor Yousef Dahmash
Councillor Kam Kaur
Councillor Sue Markham
Councillor Jan Matecki
Councillor Heather Timms
Councillor Martin Watson

Items on the agenda: -

- 1. Consultation on the expansion of infant and junior places in Nuneaton** 3 - 6

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

To download papers for this meeting scan here with your camera



Disclaimers

Webcasting and permission to be filmed

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the internet and can be viewed on line at warwickshire.public-i.tv. Generally, the public gallery is not filmed, but by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed. All recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web <https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Any member or officer of the Council or any person attending this meeting must inform Democratic Services if within a week of the meeting they discover they have COVID-19 or have been in close proximity to anyone found to have COVID-19.

Portfolio Holder Decision Consultation on the expansion of infant and junior places in Nuneaton

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education
Date of decision	11 October 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Education agrees to the commencement of a consultation in line with the statutory process required for an expansion by 90 places at Whitestone Infant School and for an expansion by 120 places at Chetwynd Junior School

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Current pupil forecasts suggest the Nuneaton South East Primary School Place Planning area will start to face a significant pressure in places as approved housing continues to build out.
- 2.2 The majority of the housing development in this area is located within the priority areas for Whitestone Infant School and Chetwynd Junior School. To address the forecast shortfall in pupil places, it is proposed to expand Whitestone Infant School and Chetwynd Junior School by one form of entry. This will permanently increase Whitestone Infant School by 90 places and Chetwynd Junior School by 120 places.
- 2.3 In line with the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education, 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools', any proposals to establish, remove or alter SEN provision (including specialist resourced provision) and any proposed enlargement of the capacity of the school premises requires the local authority to undertake a statutory process including a consultation period of at least 4 weeks.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Current housing development in the south east/Whitestone area of Nuneaton is forecast to increase reception cohorts and applications to other year groups over the

next five years. It is proposed to increase the number of primary places in this area by expanding Whitestone Infant School (4 to 7 years) from three form entry (270 places) to four form entry (360 places) and expand Chetwynd Junior School (7 to 11 years) from three form entry (360 places) to four form entry (480 places).

- 3.2 If the proposal is agreed, capital works would be initiated to ensure additional accommodation is in place to allow the school to operate with increased numbers from September 2026.
- 3.3 In line with the timing of provision it is anticipated that the consultation would need to take place between 21st October and 22nd November 2024. Should the matter go to Cabinet for a decision, this is anticipated in December 2024. Parents at the schools will be consulted using the school's established form of communication, other schools and stakeholders will be notified of the proposal and further information will be placed on WCC consultation platform 'Ask Warwickshire'.
- 3.4 An Equality Impact Assessment would form part of the report that would go to Cabinet in December 2024.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no additional costs to the LA to undertake this consultation.
- 4.2 However, if after the consultation, there is a decision to go ahead with the expansion there will be capital costs to the Local Authority in order for additional teaching and ancillary space to be provided.
- 4.3 Initial feasibility assessments have indicated that the works associated with the proposed development would include new extensions and internal remodelling works to the existing school buildings.
- 4.4 The capital project would be funded via relevant developer contributions collected, developer contributions to be received, and Education Capital Investment Funding as required.
- 4.5 Feasibility work will continue with final costings and identified funding presented to Cabinet for approval at a later date with the outcome of the proposed consultation.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 In terms of any proposed capital works, wherever possible the existing structure should be left intact and utilized to minimise the use of new structural materials and therefore the environmental impact. Consideration will be given to limiting the embodied carbon generated by the structural works by efficient use of materials. Sustainable materials and recycled components will be considered where relevant and appropriate. Consideration will be given to utilising thermal mass to reduce

operational carbon emissions subject to suitability and co-ordination with building services engineers.

5.2 There is also the positive impact of the expansion of mainstream places in close proximity to the areas of to reduce journey times for the learner, encourages active travel and limits the need to access places in neighbouring areas which increases the requirement for transport.

Report Author	Emma Basden-Smith, Strategy and Commissioning Manager - Education Capital & Sufficiency emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk
Director	Jonny Kyriacou, Director of Education johnnykyriacou@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director	Nigel Minns, Executive Director – Children & Young People Directorate nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kam Kaur, Portfolio Holder for Education kamakur@warwickshire.gov.uk

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Caroline Gutteridge

Finance – Purnima Kandula

Equality – Hannah Laurence

Democratic Services – Nic Conway

Councillors – Cllr M Humphreys, Cllr J Roodhouse, Cllr B Brown

Local Member(s): Cllr Jeff Morgan, Cllr Richard Baxter-Payne, Cllr Jeff Clarke