

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

12 February 2019

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING (BROMSGROVE AREA) – FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL

Relevant Cabinet Member

Mr M J Hart

Relevant Officer

Director of Children, Families and Communities

Local Member

Ms S A Webb

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills is recommended to:**
 - (a) note the details of the representations made in response to the Public Notice to expand Fairfield First School during the representation period from 12 November 2018 to 7 December 2018; and**
 - (b) authorise the Director of Children, Families and Communities to implement the proposal to expand Fairfield First School from a Published Admission Number of 23 to 30 from September 2020, to include the replacement of two temporary classrooms.**

Background

2. In October 2018 the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills authorised the Director of Children, Families and Communities to take all steps to finalise and implement the publication of a statutory proposal and Public Notice to expand Fairfield First School from a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 23 to 30 from September 2020, to include the replacement of two temporary classrooms (see Appendix A). At the end of the four week representation period, if objections were received the Cabinet Member would make the final decision and if no objections were received the Director would make the final decision.

3. In accordance with the guidance provided by the Department for Education - *Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained School Places* a Public Notice was published and a four week representation period commenced. Appendix B sets out details of the proposal presented by the Council.

4. At the close of the representation period on 7 December 2018, a total of 101 responses had been submitted. These have been summarised and are shown in Appendix C.

Analysis of Representations

5. Of the 101 responses, 28 did not support the proposal. The majority of the objections related to local traffic and parking concerns, while others included Bromsgrove housing expansion, school building design matters, school places, and school operational concerns. In response to these concerns, the following comments are made:

- **Traffic & Parking** - This is a common concern for many school expansion projects and the Council will continue to work closely with the school who are proactive in encouraging parents and pupils to use sustainable methods of travel to and from the site. A school travel plan will be submitted as part of any planning application for the proposed building works which will consider appropriate measures to help mitigate any local impact
- **Housing Expansions** – There are current proposals being considered for major housing developments in the Perryfields and Whitford Road areas to the west of Bromsgrove. The scale of development is such that a new 2FE first school is being considered to accommodate the number of additional students that these developments are likely to generate. In addition, the timing of these developments are yet to be finalised and the proposed new school will not be built for several years
- **School Building Design** – The feasibility report as featured within the attached public consultation proposal (Appendix B) identifies the options, costs, and timelines. As part of the design phase of this proposed project, the appointed architects will consider all implications affecting the site and design and obtain all necessary and relevant technical reports. The proposed new building will comply with all statutory regulations as well as any local planning obligations
- **School Places** - The table below shows the numbers on roll in the Bromsgrove Educational Planning Area since 2012. A bulge birth year entering Bromsgrove first schools in 2016 has created pressure on places. Schools across the educational planning area admitted 729 pupils in October 2016 against 730 places, leaving little room for families moving into the area or in-year movement. By October 2017 the number of children in that year group had increased to 734 against 730 available places, and demand continued to grow throughout the year.

Year	R	1	2	3	4	Total
October 2012	661	669	652	639	633	3254
October 2013	630	670	675	646	645	3266
October 2014	691	633	673	681	640	3318
October 2015	677	703	643	673	677	3373
October 2016	729	680	705	649	673	3436
October 2017	700	734	683	702	655	3474

- School Operations – The school has provided a response to issues raised that relate specifically to the school. (See Appendix D).

Recommendation

6. On the basis of the information contained in this report, taking account of the representations made following the publication of the Public Notice and the Council's responses to the objections expressed, the Cabinet Member is recommended to authorise the Director of Children, Families and Communities to finalise details and implement the expansion of this school to enable an increase in the PAN from 23 to 30 from September 2020.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

7. Funding is available to support this project within the Council's Basic Need Capital Programme 2018/19.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

8. A Privacy Impact Assessment Screening was completed in respect of the expansion proposal. The screening did not identify any potential Privacy considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

Supporting Information

- Appendix A - Cabinet Member Decision Report - 22 October 2018
- Appendix B - Autumn 2018 – Public Consultation Proposal
- Appendix C – Summary of Responses to the Public Consultation Proposal
- Appendix D – School Response to Public Concerns

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points
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Specific Contact Points for this report
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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

April 2016 – DfE Publication - Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained School Places – Statutory Guidance for Proposers & Decision-Makers.

Autumn 2017 – Public Consultation Information for Dodford First School, Fairfield First School, Hanbury CE First School, and St Andrews CE First School, Barnt Green.

Cabinet Member Decision Report - 26 April 2018