

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE'S SERVICES****PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES
IN WEST BRIDGFORD****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to increase the supply of primary school places in West Bridgford through the following proposals:
 - create additional places in central West Bridgford in line with Basic Need
 - confirm the provision of an additional classroom at Jesse Gray Primary School to accommodate existing pupils
 - work with the Church of England Southwell Diocese and Governors of Pierrepont Gamston Voluntary Aided Primary School to explore options for expansion (medium and long term)
 - work with Lady Bay Primary School to consider options for development, including replacing mobile classrooms
 - work with Edwalton Primary School to explore options for expansion (long term)
 - replace mobile classrooms where possible with permanent buildings
 - consider the option of reviewing catchment area arrangements within the area to facilitate the proposed expansion of schools.

Information and Advice

2. There is a nationally recognised problem which is affecting a majority of local authorities, where there is a shortage of school places within specific districts or areas. This is referred to as Basic Need and covers secondary as well as primary school places shortages. The problem is currently most acute at primary level.
3. Across the country, there are a variety of reasons for this:
 - increases in the birth rate
 - residential development – new build or conversions

- popularity of specific schools
- inward migration into popular areas
- reduction in outward migration

4. The Department for Education (DfE) predicts that nationally a further 400,000 primary places will be required by 2015. There has been a recent announcement of further funding allocations to local authorities for the provision of new school places (see **paragraph 8**). The problem currently exists within the primary sector, but plans need to be put in place to deal with the increase in demand in secondary places that will be required over time.
5. Within Nottinghamshire, this problem exists in several 'hot spots' within the County, the most pressing of which is in West Bridgford.
6. Basic Need is the term used by government where the demand for places outstrips supply. However, the agenda for parental preference in applying for school places must also be taken into account. Local authorities receive grant from central government to cover the cost of providing additional school places through the Basic Need Allocation. The grant can be allocated to community schools, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools.
7. Over the past year significant funding for Basic Need has been allocated to the County. This grant is not, however, ringfenced and has been used as part of the overall funding for the County Council's ambitious schools refurbishment programme. School capital allocations were approved by County Council on 19 May 2011 as summarised in the table below:-

	2011/12 £000s	2012/13 £000s	Total £000s
Basic Need Programme	3,800	4,800	8,600
School Refurbishment Programme	15,000	24,000	39,000
School Access Initiative	500	500	1,000
Contingency	1,500	1,500	3,000
Total School Capital Grant	20,800	30,800	51,600

8. Subsequently, we were allocated an additional £1.064 million Basic Need grant allocation. There was also a £5.079 million reduction in the 2012/13 school capital grant allocation (to reflect those schools that have gained Academy status and a change in the methodology used to calculate the Basic Need allocation). The revised school capital allocations are summarised in the table overleaf:-

	2011/12 £000s	2012/13 £000s	Total £000s
Basic Need Programme	4,864	4,800	9,664
School Refurbishment Programme	15,000	18,921	33,921
School Access Initiative	500	500	1,000
Contingency	1,500	1,500	3,000
Total School Capital Grant	21,864	25,721	47,585

9. There are currently 3,458 primary school places in West Bridgford across the following primary schools: Abbey Road, Edwalton, Greythorn, Heymann, Jesse Gray, Lady Bay, Pierrepont Gamston (VA), St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary (VA), West Bridgford Infant and West Bridgford Junior.
10. St Peter's CE (Controlled) Junior School in Ruddington is linked to Rushcliffe School (Foundation) and serves the Ruddington area and is therefore not subject to consideration in this report as there are currently sufficient places available in the school.
11. There are 270 places located in temporary accommodation at Lady Bay, Abbey Road, Edwalton and Heymann and a further 60 places supporting two bulge years at Jesse Gray. This is the second arrangement with the governors at Jesse Gray to make additional provision available through temporary re-alignment of accommodation at the school to support an extra class in the reception year. The first bulge year was to meet demand in 2008 – and the second was to meet parental preference in 2011. There are now plans to add a permanent additional classroom to the school.
12. A further temporary classroom is needed at Heymann in order to secure the supply of places until permanent solutions can be delivered. This temporary accommodation is scheduled to be available from September 2012, subject to planning approval, by which time it is hoped that a plan to deliver permanent places is approved and underway. Once the permanent places are secured and available, then the temporary classrooms and arrangements in place at these schools can be removed in a phased way and in keeping with the accommodation needs of the schools.
13. Within West Bridgford there are three families of schools:
 - **Rushcliffe** - Abbey Road Primary, Edwalton Primary, Lady Bay Primary, Pierrepont Gamston CE (VA) Primary, Rushcliffe School (11-18 Foundation), St Peter's CE (VC) Junior
 - **West Bridgford** - Greythorn Primary, Heymann Primary, Jesse Gray Primary, The West Bridgford School (11-18 academy), West Bridgford Junior, West Bridgford Infant
 - **Becket** - The Becket RC School (11–18 voluntary aided academy), St Edmund Campion Catholic (Aided) Primary.

The Becket family of schools is made up of local catholic schools within the Nottingham Diocese. The provision of school places within these schools is the primary concern of the Diocese, within a strategic partnership with the County Council. This report focuses on the Rushcliffe and West Bridgford families of schools.

14. There is a Basic Need case within the West Bridgford and Rushcliffe families of schools, as shown in the table overleaf:

School	Permanent places available (permanent Net Capacity)	No of temporary places (mobile classrooms)	No of other temporary places	Total places available (Sept 2012)	NOR (Oct 2011 census) with surplus/deficit		Projected demand Sep 2012 (as of Dec 2011) with surplus/deficit		Projected demand Sep 2013 (as of Dec 2011) with surplus/deficit		Projected demand Sep 2014 (as of Dec 2011) with surplus/deficit	
Lady Bay	345	60		405	379	26	387	18	410	-5	411	-6
Abbey Road	420	60		480	444	36	464	16	474	6	478	2
Pierrepont Gamston	210			210	202	8	210	0	207	3	215	-5
Edwalton	280	120		400	351	49	357	43	363	37	401	-1
TOTALS	1255	240	0	1495	1376	119	1418	77	1454	41	1505	-10
West Bridgford Infant	243			243	251	-8	250	-7	262	-19	275	-32
West Bridgford Junior	320			320	325	-5	331	-11	335	-15	357	-37
Jesse Gray	420		60	480	471	9	477	3	469	11	462	18
Greythorn	315			315	303	12	308	7	307	8	314	1
Heymann	365	30		395	375	20	375	20	364	31	341	54
TOTAL	1663	30	60	1753	1725	28	1741	12	1737	16	1749	4
AREA TOTAL	2918	270	60	3248	3101	147	3159	89	3191	57	3254	-6
surplus/deficit				Removing 270 temporary places	-123		-181		-213		-276	
				If 315 additional places provided at Heymann, PG OR Edwalton	192 (5.83%)		134 (4.07%)		102 (3.10%)		39 (1.18%)	
				If 420 additional places provided	297 (8.74%)		239 (7.03%)		207 (6.09%)		144 (4.24%)	

15. There are sufficient primary school places across the families of schools with the provision of temporary accommodation. However, the number of permanent places falls short of the pupil demand for 2012 when the temporary accommodation is discounted. The need for places continues over the period of the projections (2012-14) and identifies a sustained demand for up to 276 additional primary places. The table also shows that in order to meet the demand, there needs to be a permanent addition of around 315 places. This would deliver an additional 45 places annually for Reception aged pupils (first admissions) within West Bridgford for the next 7 years. This need is supported by a further analysis of the demand for first admissions.

16. DfE currently recommends an allowance of 5% unfilled places to support parental preference. This implies a permanent addition of around 420 places which would deliver an additional 60 places annually for Reception aged pupils for the next 7 years.
17. All the primary schools in the West Bridgford area are clustered within an area around two miles across. In terms of population density, the area of central West Bridgford has the highest number of school age children and is where the demand for school places is greatest. It is therefore reasonable to form the basis of a Basic Need case on a school in this location.
18. All schools in West Bridgford are popular and good. They attract a high level of applications from parents. In the last admissions round (2010/11) parents were concerned about the oversubscription of some of the schools. There were initially 18 Mandatory Offers made where parents were not able to be offered a school from their listed preferences. There were, however, sufficient school places for every child to be offered a place in accordance with the statutory responsibility of the authority but this did not meet the aspiration of the Council to satisfy parents who had identified their preferred schools. As a result, additional provision was arranged at Jesse Gray Primary School and an additional Reception class containing places for 30 children above the school's agreed admission limit was set up. This helped to reduce the final number of Mandatory Offers to 7 in West Bridgford.
19. The two schools in West Bridgford which have experienced in-catchment oversubscription in the last two years are Jesse Gray Primary and West Bridgford Infant Schools. Other schools also experience high levels of applications. Analysis is taking place to evaluate the preference expressed by application for the current admissions round (2012), but secure data is not yet available. When it is confirmed, consideration will be given to the latest trends reflected in applications and the consequential impact.
20. In 2011, several schools agreed to increase the agreed admissions number over the Planned Admission Number (PAN), based upon local arrangements and provision of temporary accommodation. Five schools received more applications than they had available places: Jesse Gray, Edwalton, Lady Bay, West Bridgford and Abbey Road. In 2012, four schools have applied to increase their PAN permanently and have capacity to do this:
 - Lady Bay from 50 to 60
 - Edwalton from 40 to 50
 - West Bridgford Infants from 80 to 81
 - Edmund Campion from 50 to 60
21. Schools where temporary accommodation was installed or temporary measures were put in place last year, and which agreed temporarily to admit over their PAN for 2011, will not be able to continue to admit over their PAN for 2012 unless additional accommodation is provided.
22. Vincent and Gorbing (Chartered Architects and Town Planners) were commissioned to evaluate all existing school sites, and to identify other sites within the area that may be considered for development. This report has been used to consider the possibility of expanding existing schools to create additional places, as well as to consider the

potential development of new sites for education provision. The report considered potential for the two most over-subscribed schools - West Bridgford Infant School and Jesse Gray Primary School.

23. West Bridgford Infant School is located on a landlocked site and, according to the Vincent and Gorbing site evaluation report, there is no expansion potential. Jesse Gray Primary is located on a site which has been evaluated as presenting high potential for short term expansion. This was the basis for a decision taken by Members, and agreed with Governors in the summer, to facilitate an additional reception class at this school and allow more places to be available to meet high levels of demand. This temporarily increased the school's PAN from 60 to 90 places, so that a second bulge year was admitted into the school for 2011 only. To this end, the school is the subject of a planning application to create an additional classroom space as well as internal adaptations to produce two group rooms. The two bulge years will take until 2015/18 to work through the school. When this has taken place, the school can revert to permanent capacity to house 420 pupils. The Vincent and Gorbing report does not include this site within the options for longer term development, due to the size of the site. The school's PAN reverts to 60 for September 2012.
24. Whilst these two schools were subject to the greatest number of applications for school places, neither has a site which has been evaluated to present long term development. The Vincent and Gorbing report identifies three long term options for development in priority order:
 - Sharphill – a development of new housing which also contains a school site as part of a Section 106 agreement, with developer contributions to build a new primary school. It would be possible to expand this provision to provide more school places than anticipated from the new housing, therefore relieving pressure in West Bridgford. However, expansion would not be possible until funding from the developers was released under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, which is dependent on the completion of a spine road through the site.
 - Lady Bay/Adbolton - land owned by the County Council and located at the edge of West Bridgford. The site lies within the Nottingham Green Belt and in an area of fluvial flood risk with recently upgraded flood defences. Additionally the site has an internal drainage issue which would require appropriate mitigation measures. The site could provide for new primary provision, but there would need to be careful planning justification in order to achieve approval for development. The above factors could affect overall cost and delivery time. Detailed feasibility would be required to evaluate the impact of these issues
 - Central West Bridgford – land owned by the County Council and located near to a local primary school (Heymann) and secondary school (The West Bridgford School – 11-18 academy). This could be developed as a site for new primary provision. However, it is currently used for other purposes and this would need to be addressed before development could take place. This could affect overall costs and delivery time.
25. Based on the Vincent and Gorbing options, it is appropriate to base the Basic Need case on expanding either or both Lady Bay and Heymann Primary Schools. However, on the

basis that the central area of West Bridgford has the highest concentration of school age pupils, expansion of Heymann provides the best initial solution. Consideration needs also to be taken of the appropriateness of creating additional provision on the outer rim of West Bridgford at Adbolton.

26. The oversubscription at West Bridgford Infants contributes to pressure at Lady Bay, which also had some oversubscription in 2011. Lady Bay has a temporary double mobile classroom and consideration needs to be given to providing a more permanent solution. This needs to be discussed in detail with Planners as the school has a listed building which affects the type of development that can be approved, as well as the cost of provision. This could form part of a feasibility study on potential further development.
27. The cost of developing two new sites would be high and would not fall within the funding available and is therefore not currently recommended. Also both Lady Bay and Heymann sites present with complex site issues which may require additional funding and could take longer to develop.
28. Vincent and Gorbing also identify some potential for development at Edwalton and Pierrepont Gamston CE (VA) Primary School. Their report suggests that there is an option for increasing the number of school places from 210 (one form entry) to 315 (one and a half forms of entry) at Pierrepont Gamston. Some initial discussion has already taken place with governors at this school and the Southwell Diocese. If proposals are to be progressed, then governors will need to be further engaged and must agree to a plan for expansion, as this school is voluntary aided. Edwalton is a community primary school and at this stage there have been no discussions about increasing permanent capacity. Work with the head teacher and governors would need to take place to explore the potential for expansion from a capacity of 315 to 420 if additional places were to be provided at this school. This could be considered as a longer term option, dependent on the outcome of other feasibility studies.
29. Pierrepont Gamston CE (VA) Primary School is a Church of England school and part of the provision maintained by the voluntary aided sector through the Southwell Diocese. It does not have a specified catchment, but provides for part of the catchment area allocated to Edwalton and Abbey Road Schools. It is located in the vicinity of Abbey Primary and Edwalton Primary and additional places here could help to create some relief for the mobiles which are currently providing temporary capacity at both these schools, in which case the mobiles could be removed from these sites permanently. Additional capacity at Pierrepont Gamston would not provide more than around 100 places, but would be potentially affordable.
30. Edwalton Primary currently has two double and one single mobiles providing temporary capacity. There is an option of developing a permanent extension to the school which increases capacity from 315 to 420. There is sufficient site; however, there are logistical issues to be overcome in terms of the location of new build, given the location of mobile classrooms already on the site. This option would need further feasibility. Statutory Notices would need to be published to expand the school(s). Planning approval would also need to be sought. Expansion of any of these schools would enable the phased removal of temporary accommodation at Edwalton and Abbey Road.

31. The Basic Need to expand in central West Bridgford could be provided on a site close to Heymann Primary School and The West Bridgford School. This site is currently owned by the County Council and is used for other purposes than education. However, there are plans to change part of its use which means that a portion of it could be available for the development of additional primary provision. This development would facilitate the removal of temporary accommodation at the Heymann Primary School.
32. There are options around developing this site. They include providing a brand new primary school or expanding the existing Heymann Primary School across two sites, possibly creating an infant base and a junior base. The close proximity of the site to Heymann would suggest expansion of the existing school. Access to the new provision would be from Loughborough Road and would require enhancement through the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Loughborough Road to enable the safe walking route from part of central West Bridgford to this site.
33. Expanding Heymann Primary School has been agreed with governors and would be subject to a public consultation process and the publication of Statutory Notices. The alternative option of a new school would add a further 12 months to the statutory process in order to fulfil competition requirements. The demand for places is too urgent to allow this process.
34. The benefit to expanding Heymann is that the overall provision in West Bridgford remains good and the new provision is grown from a school which already has an established record. The full primary age range would be provided, as well as increasing the number of pupils admitted in reception year. This would facilitate the placing of families of more than one child at the school and ensure that siblings could attend the same school from the outset.
35. Development costs of the new provision at the proposed site are high, due to site conditions and the relocation of some of the current services located on the site. These costs would be the same whether the school was a new primary school or an expansion of Heymann Primary School. Further work needs to be undertaken to refine the costings of this proposed new provision.
36. In order to allow the changes described above to be successful, it is necessary to consider the future operation of catchment area arrangements across the schools affected.

Other Options Considered

37. All options that were considered are outlined in the report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

38. The recommendations reflect the location of the projected demand in West Bridgford; the need to provide for families of more than one child; the need to maintain the high level of educational standards in West Bridgford; and the need to deliver permanent places within a defined and tight timeframe (for September 2013).

Statutory and Policy Implications

39. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

40. There will be sufficient permanent primary school places for children living in West Bridgford.
41. The DfE recommended 5% provision for the exercise of parental choice will be met.

Financial Implications

42. Estimated gross costs for developing Heyman Primary are £7.8million, and for extending Jesse Gray are £630,000. If in the future there is a proven business case for further expansion, then a further report on costs for expansion of Pierrepont Gamston, and potentially Lady Bay Primary and/or Edwalton Schools will be brought to Cabinet or the appropriate committee and will be based upon the outcome of proposed feasibility studies.

Equalities Implications

43. Children in West Bridgford will be able to access school places locally. All new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.

Human Rights Implications

44. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

45. All new build schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

Human Resources Implications

46. Where schools are expanding, appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from the increases to the school budget triggered by the increased number of pupils.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

47. Increasing the number of primary school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All new build projects will require planning approval and will meet Building Regulations which reflect sustainability and environmental targets. By providing local school places, the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Cabinet agree to increase the number of primary school places, in line with demand demonstrated by Basic Need, and to meet the DfE recommendation of 5% unfilled places to support parental preference by:
 - a) consulting on the expansion of Heymann Primary School to increase capacity from 420 to 630 places across two sites and develop plans to build on the newly proposed site in central West Bridgford to ensure provision is available in 2013/14
 - b) ratifying the provision of an additional classroom at Jesse Gray Primary School to facilitate the two bulge years that are currently being accommodated and agree that the school will revert to its original capacity of 420 places in 2018
 - c) working with Pierrepont Gamston VA Primary School and the Southwell Church of England Diocese to explore options for expansion by a further 105 places and bring a further report to Cabinet or the appropriate committee with proposals as soon as possible.
 - d) working with Lady Bay Primary School to consider options for development, including replacement of the double mobile with permanent accommodation and bring a further report to Cabinet or the appropriate committee with proposals as soon as possible
 - e) exploring the option of expanding Edwalton Primary School in the longer term and removing temporary mobile classrooms
 - f) consulting on potential change to the catchment area arrangements of the schools affected.

Councillor Philip Owen

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

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Constitutional Comments (LM 29/02/12)

48. Cabinet has delegated responsibility under the Scheme of Delegation for the discharge of the County Council's functions in relation to education conferred on or exercisable by the Council in its capacity as a Local Authority (Section 18(2)(a) Children Act 2004). Cabinet may therefore approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 01/03/12)

49. School Capital Allocations are summarised in paragraph 8 and the financial implications are set out in paragraph 42 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

West Bridgford Central and South:	Councillor Barrie Cooper Councillor Michael Cox
West Bridgford West: Radcliffe on Trent:	Councillor Gordon Wheeler Councillor Kay Cutts

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