

11 December 2023

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND INCLUSION

RESPONSE TO PETITION PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL – PUPIL PLACE SUFFICIENCY IN RUDDINGTON

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities the responses to the issues raised in the petition presented to the County Council at its meeting on 13th July 2023.

Information

2. An 802-signature petition was presented to Full Council on 13 July 2023 by Councillor Reg Adair on behalf of residents in Ruddington requesting that the County Council addresses concerns being raised in respect of pupil place sufficiency for Ruddington families.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council ('the Council') continually monitors place planning demand and explores options for creating additional primary school places in response to levels of new housing that has been approved and is being constructed, including in Ruddington.
4. Any proposal to increase capacity at James Peacock Infant School, Ruddington, would require an increase in capacity at St Peter's CofE Junior School, Ruddington, in order to maintain parity of Published Admission Numbers (PANs) so that all pupils leaving the infant school are able to secure places at the junior school.
5. Whilst the St Peter's CofE Junior School site is large enough to accommodate expansion, studies have concluded that there would be considerable challenges. The weight of construction traffic to St Peter's CofE Junior School could not be supported by the existing narrow bridge. This would need to be addressed and the creation of a secondary access would very likely be needed from the A60. The cost implications of this would be considerable but essential to overcome the restrictions imposed on construction vehicles that would be encountered using the present access point.

6. Whilst James Peacock Infant School was considered for expansion and would have physical space to expand, this could not proceed as the School's latest Ofsted rating is not at Good or above as expected by the Department for Education (DfE) to receive Basic Need funding.
7. The Council reviews school place sufficiency both within planning areas and adjacent planning areas to ensure sufficiency of school places across the County. The Council has worked with Spencer Academies Trust to expand Rosecliffe Spencer Academy by 105 places. Rosecliffe Spencer Academy is situated in the West Bridgford Planning Area, but its catchment encompasses Ruddington and the expansion at Rosecliffe will consequently create extra capacity for both Ruddington and West Bridgford residents.
8. The expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy has facilitated an increase in the first admission number of the school from 45 to 60 from September 2023. There is therefore sufficient capacity in the local area to ensure that pupils (who applied on time) have been able to be allocated a place at a local school.

Expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy

9. In December 2021 the Children and Young People's Committee approved the allocation of funding for a feasibility study on the expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy by 0.5 FE (Form Entry), from 1.5 FE to 2 FE, creating an additional 105 places.
10. The expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy was proposed by Pupil Place Planning to meet increasing demand for school places in the West Bridgford Primary Planning Area.
11. Since December 2021, projected demand for places in both West Bridgford and Ruddington Planning Areas has reduced to the extent that the expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy (whose catchment area includes Ruddington) would provide a sufficiency of school places in the West Bridgford Planning Area, as well as enough places to mitigate against the projected deficit of primary school places in Ruddington.

Table 1 – Pupil Place Projections – Ruddington & West Bridgford Primary Planning Areas

	PAN		Net cap	Proj Year	School years							Whole school	
	FAD	IJT			R	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	surplus / deficit places
Ruddington & West Bridgford	696	175	4978	2023-24	668	630	696	725	723	750	734	4926	+52
Ruddington & West Bridgford	711	175	4978	2024-25	675	678	641	708	737	736	764	4939	+39
Ruddington & West Bridgford	711	175	4978	2025-26	671	682	683	662	716	749	746	4909	+69
Ruddington & West Bridgford	711	175	4978	2026-27	670	676	686	685	670	725	757	4869	+109
Ruddington & West Bridgford	711	175	4978	2027-28	682	674	681	691	687	682	735	4832	+146

N.B. The above projections reflect the addition of 105 places at Rosecliffe Spencer Academy in October 2023.

12. The Latest Estimated Cost (LEC) report, approved by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management in March 2023, stated that the expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy would cost £1.579 million.

13. The Latest Estimated Cost report stated that £707,000 of Section 106 developer contributions are available for the expansion project, and a further £823,000 is potentially available from other developer contributions, subject to agreement with the housing developers, with the remaining £49,000 being met from the Council's Basic Need funding grant from the Department for Education. The S106 funding will be received once the project is complete so will require forward funding from School Places funds until the build is complete.
14. The £707,000 referenced in the LEC report relates to S106 contributions from three developments as follows:

Application Reference	Development Location	Pupil Planning Area	Amount	Purpose of Contribution	Deadline
19/02068/FUL	Land West Of Melton Road, Edwalton	West Bridgford	£370,656	For the purpose of providing new primary school provision in the West Bridgford planning area	N/A
12/0119/FUL	Pasture Lane, Ruddington	Ruddington	£267,412	For the provision of improvements to primary school educational facilities and the provision of additional school places in the existing primary schools in the vicinity of the development	07/02/2024
15/01793/FUL	Land west of Malmic House, Brookside Road, Ruddington	Ruddington	£68,730	For works at James Peacock Infant School and St Peter's Junior School or works towards the provision of primary school places at such other school or schools in the vicinity of the Development which be required to accommodate the increase in pupils numbers arising from the Development at the County Council's discretion	16/03/2031

15. The funds in the table above have been collected by Rushcliffe Borough Council and the County Council has made a formal request to Rushcliffe Borough Council for these contributions to be committed to the project to expand Rosecliffe Spencer Academy. Although two of these S106 contributions relate to developments in Ruddington, they do not limit the funds to schools within Ruddington, and there is a pressing need to commit the funds associated with Pasture Lane (i.e. February 2024).

Uncommitted Housing Developer Contributions relating to housing developments in Ruddington

16. There are currently £2.329 million of developer contributions, relating to housing developments in Ruddington, that have not been committed to a project. The associated S106 agreements explicitly require the funds to be used at schools in Ruddington.
17. The projected deficit of places in Ruddington has been mitigated through the expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy.
18. The County Council has the option to approach the housing developers to request an amendment to the terms of the S106s pursuant to Land South of Meadowcroft Flawforth Lane (19/01603) and Land North East of Marl Close (16/01287) to enable the funds to be used for the expansion of Rosecliffe Spencer Academy. Such variations are not uncommon and remain subject to the decision of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management.

Ref	Location	Amount	Purpose
18/00300/OUT	Land at Asher Lane, Ruddington	£704,776.00	Towards the provision of education or facilities at James Peacock infant & Nursey and St Peter's CofE Junior School in Ruddington
19/00535/OUT	Land East of Loughborough Road Ruddington	£723,824.00	Towards the cost of providing additional places at St Peters Junior School, Ruddington
19/01063/FUL	Land South of Meadowcroft Flawforth Lane, Ruddington	£202,704.00	Towards providing additional primary school places in Ruddington necessary to meet the educational needs of primary school age children resident at the development
19/01287/FUL	Land North East Of Marl Close Wilford Road Ruddington	£609,910.00	Toward the improvement and/or expansion of primary school provision in Ruddington
21/01768/FUL	Land east of Loughborough Road, Ruddington	£88,085.00	Towards improving, remodelling, enhancing, or expanding facilities to provide additional permanent capacity at primary schools within Ruddington, to accommodate pupil growth from the development

Proposed Actions

19. The petition response be approved and the lead petitioner be informed.

Link to Nottinghamshire Plan/Annual Delivery Plan

20. The actions being taken contribute to the delivery of the following Nottinghamshire Plan visions and ambitions/delivery plan priorities:
 - Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit
 - By delivering the infrastructure our communities need such as school places.
 - Building Skills that helps people get good jobs
 - By making sure there are the right number of mainstream places for Nottinghamshire's children and young people.

Other Options Considered

21. The other options considered have been set out in **paragraphs 4 to 8** above.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. It is a requirement that the Council consider all petitions submitted through the petitions process and respond appropriately.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

24. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the petition response be approved.
- 2) the lead petitioner be informed of the response.

Peter McConnochie

Service Director, Education, Learning and Inclusion

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Constitutional Comments (LW 7/12/23)

25. The Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities is the appropriate person to consider the content of the report - E&S.1.

Financial Comments (SS 7/11/23)

26. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Basic Need Programme of School Expansion 2022-23 – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 13 December 2021](#)

[Nottinghamshire School Places Programme: Rosecliffe Spencer Academy expansion – Latest Estimated Cost – decision of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management on 6 March 2023](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Leake and Ruddington
- West Bridgford North
- West Bridgford South
- West Bridgford West

CF0117