

16 July 2012

Agenda Item: 10**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS SERVICE****HEYMANN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST BRIDGFORD -
POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PERMANENT PUPIL PLACES AND DELIVERY
OF EARLY YEARS EDUCATION PLACES: OUTCOME OF STATUTORY
CONSULTATION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Committee with the outcome of formal consultation on two proposals:
 - Proposal 1: to expand Heymann Primary School on an adjoining site in newly built premises thereby increasing the school's net capacity by a further 210 permanent pupil places
 - Proposal 2: to provide 39 full-time equivalent Early Years education places for children aged between three and four years at Heymann Primary School
2. It also seeks approval to publish a statutory notice as required under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to formally expand the school's net capacity and lower the age limit of the school from 5-11 to 3-11 years.

Information and Advice

3. At its meeting on 14 March 2012, the former Cabinet gave its approval for the formal consultation with the staff, governors, pupils and parents/carers of Heymann Primary School community and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 above.
4. Members may recall that the proposed expansion of Heymann Primary School is part of a wider County Council remit to provide much needed additional school places in the West Bridgford community.

Consultation

5. A consultation leaflet was circulated to all the staff, governors and parents/carers of pupils at Heymann Primary School to explain the rationale for the proposals, and to give them the opportunity to make any comments about what was being proposed.
6. Copies of the leaflet were also sent out to the wider community including Early Years providers, residents adjoining the school's site, the West Bridgford primary schools, the

Member of Parliament and appropriate County Councillor, Diocesan Authorities, the local district council, and other interested parties.

7. Heymann Primary School Council was consulted and was supportive of the proposal.
8. During the consultation period of 23 April to 1 June 2012 the authority received 61 written responses. The consultation leaflet provided the opportunity for respondents to support or oppose each of the proposals referred to in this report and representation on which of the two proposals were supported or opposed is attached as **Appendix 1**. In some responses only one proposal was selected and therefore the response analysis does not correlate with the actual number of responses received.
9. A meeting was held at Heymann Primary School on 9 May 2012 to give all interested parties the opportunity to discuss the proposals being consulted on.
10. The staff and governors of Heymann Primary School were also consulted at meetings held at the school on 21 and 22 May 2012 respectively. Following these meetings, letters have been received from both the staff and governors of the school unanimously supporting their school's proposed expansion and provision of early years places.
11. In summary, the main issues arising from respondents opposing either or both proposals are:-
 - serious concerns about the potential increase in traffic flow and associated parking implications
 - the safety of children accessing the proposed new school site
 - sufficient Early Years (EY) places already exist in the West Bridgford EY settings, which are currently not full. This is evidenced by the March 2012 NCC Early Years Sufficiency Report. It should be noted here that the introduction in September of the single point of entry of children aged 4+ into Reception classes led to an excess of Early Years places in West Bridgford Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector settings.
12. In comparison to the above issues, the main comments in support of either or both proposals can be summarised as:-
 - additional school places are necessary and urgently required in West Bridgford in order to address need and increase the opportunity for parental preference
 - the County Council has fully engaged with local schools about the various possible options to create more primary places in West Bridgford
 - the Early Years provision will provide children with a seamless educational transition
 - additional Early Years provision will also provide parents/carers with increased opportunities for parental choice.
 - in response to consistent requests during past years for maintained Early Years provision in West Bridgford, the development at Heymann will provide parental choice of the type of Early Years provision used. The Heymann Early Years unit will therefore introduce a broadening of choice into West Bridgford in direct response to parental demand.

13. Account has been taken of all the comments received concerning the proposed Early Years provision. The County Council's Support to School Services officers recognize that other local Early Years settings may be adversely affected if the proposal were to be implemented. However, the degree is difficult to predict with certainty because the overall take-up of places in any pre-school setting is predicated by a number of factors including parental choice and birth rates. Similarly, although it is difficult to predict with accuracy the demand for Early Years places in future years, demographic trends indicate that the numbers of children under 4 years of age in West Bridgford will continue to increase or be maintained at current levels, thus suggesting that the proposed Heymann Early Years unit will meet a demand for maintained Early Years places until at least 2016/17.
14. It is recommended that Proposal 1 should be accepted, which is also confirmed by the consultation response analysis.
15. It is recommended that Proposal 2 should also be recommended, despite the opposition recorded by the consultation process. The creation of Early Years places at Heymann Primary School gives more parental choice of the type of EY provision used. There is currently no maintained EY provision in West Bridgford and this would be the first nursery provision to be opened in a school in this area.
16. All written responses received either by the reply form provided or by electronic mail are available as a background paper to this report. A summary of the comments made is included in **Appendix 1**.

Statutory Notice

17. As the proposed expansion of the existing Heymann Primary School on an adjoining site will increase places at the school by more than 25%, it is deemed a significant increase in school size; in this case the school's net capacity will increase from 420 to 630 places.
18. Also, to enable Heymann Primary School to admit children between the ages of three and four years, it is a statutory requirement to formally lower the age limit of admission to the school from 5-11 to 3-11 years.
19. Following formal consultation by the County Council, both the above proposals would require the publication of a statutory notice under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
20. The notice will be published locally in the press, and will be displayed at the Heymann Primary School site, local public library and other appropriate places. It will stand for six weeks during which time comments and objections to the proposal will be invited in writing.
21. The outcome of the notice will be reported to Committee who will determine the proposal, including taking into account any statutory comments or objections that may be received during the representation period.

Other Options Considered

22. All options concerning the provision of additional permanent pupil places that were considered are outlined in the report approved by Cabinet on 14 March 2012.
23. The only option available to Heymann Primary School for parents/carers who wish their children to receive Early Years education between three and four years, is to continue to send them to Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers and move the children to Heymann Primary School as appropriate for their statutory education.

Reasons for Recommendations

24. The recommendation reflects the location of the projected demand in West Bridgford; the need to provide places at the same school for siblings; the need to maintain the high level of educational standards in West Bridgford; the need to deliver permanent places within a defined and tight timeframe (for September 2013); and the need to increase places to provide a greater degree of parental preference.
25. It is Government policy that early years education places can be delivered through local authority maintained schools and providers in the private, independent and voluntary sectors. This proposal is perceived as being in the best interests of both Heymann Primary School and the local community.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. 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

27. Children and families will have access to, and an increased choice of, school and early years education in their immediate locality.

Financial Implications

28. The estimated gross costs for developing Heymann Primary School are £7.8million.
29. Any variation to the numbers of children attending the school through this proposed change to the admission arrangements will be reflected in the school's budget through the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

Equalities Implications

30. Children in central West Bridgford will be able to access school and early years places locally. Any new build scheme will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.
31. As part of the process of making decisions and changing policy, public authorities are required by law to think about the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics (as defined by equalities legislation) and those who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not
32. Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are a means by which a public authority can assess the potential impact that proposed decisions/changes to policy could have on the community and those with protected characteristics. They may also identify potential ways to reduce any impact that a decision / policy change could have. If it is not possible to reduce the impact, the EIA can explain why. Decision makers must understand the potential implications of their decisions on people with protected characteristics.
33. An EIA has been undertaken and is available as a background paper. Decision makers must give due regard to the implications for protected groups when considering this report.

Human Rights Implications

34. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated and increased by both proposals.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

35. The new build scheme will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

Human Resources Implications

36. Appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from the increases to the school budget triggered by the increased number of pupils, and the school will use appropriate recruitment and selection procedures when making appointments.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

37. Increasing the number of primary school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. Any new build project will require planning approval and will meet Building Regulations which reflect sustainability and environmental targets. By increasing local school places, the need for travelling by car could be reduced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- 1) Committee receives and considers the outcome of formal consultation with staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers of Heymann Primary School, local community and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of this report.
- 2) Committee agrees to the publication of a Statutory Notice, under the provisions of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, for the proposals to:-

- significantly increase the number of pupil places at Heymann Primary School, from 420 places 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
 - lower the existing age limit of Heymann Community Primary from 5-11 to 3-11 years, thereby enabling the school to admit children to attend early years education places
- 3) a further report be submitted to the Committee on the outcome of the six week representation period of the County Council's Section 19 notice.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 19/06/12)

38. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated responsibility for services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health. The Committee may therefore approve the recommendation in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 25/06/12)

39. The financial implications are considered in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the report.

Background Papers

- 1) Report to Cabinet on 14 March 2012 'Proposals to Increase the Supply of Primary School Places in West Bridgford' (previously published)
- 2) The consultation leaflet circulated to the staff, governors and parents/carers of Heymann Primary school, statutory consultees and to other interested parties
- 3) Written responses received during the formal consultation period
- 4) Equality Impact Assessment

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.

Electoral Division and Member Affected

West Bridgford West: Councillor Gordon Wheeler

C0028

APPENDIX 1

Possible expansion of Pupil Places and provision of Early Years Places at Heymann Community Primary School

Consultation Responses Analysis:

Proposal 1	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	14	10	3
Governor	6	0	0
Staff	3	0	0
Pupil/Other	7	13	3
TOTALS	30	23	6
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent, only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', governor, 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

Proposal 2	No. of responses received Agreed	No. of responses received Opposed	No. of responses received Didn't Know
Parent/Carer	15	9	3
Governor	4	1	0
Staff	3	0	0
Pupil/Other	1	21	1
TOTALS	23	31	4
Where reply forms indicated more than one type of respondent, only one has been included in the table above using a priority order of 'parent/carers', governor, 'staff' and then 'pupil/other'.			

Comments/Issues/Points raised within Written/Electronic/On-Line responses:

The decision making process

- Comments made that additional school places are necessary and urgently required in West Bridgford and should benefit all pupils with enhanced facilities
- Comments made that Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) have engaged fully with schools on various possible options to create more primary places in West Bridgford
- Feeling expressed that both proposals represent the best options for Heymann Primary and the local community
- Reassurance raised of having some guarantee that Heymann's existing school site will be modified and updated to ensure fit for purpose as a Key Stage 2 unit
- Support expressed by a local primary school for the proposed expansion of Heymann Primary to meet long term capacity needs at primary school level
- Although significant concerns raised by a local primary school of the potential impact that increased capacity of primary school places West of Loughborough Road could have on it, the school recognises there is a genuine need for extra places in West Bridgford.

- Opposition expressed concerning the proposed early years provision, citing this would be an inequitable position that favours one primary school against another
- Comment made that to make the situation equitable, NCC should reconsider its early years proposal and either also provide it at another local primary school, or neither
- In supporting the proposed expansion, comment made that a similar creative response needs to be taken to an increasing problem in another part of West Bridgford
- Opinions expressed there is already sufficient provision of local early years places with spare capacity, and that the early years proposal could jeopardise the sustainability these providers who have existed for a number of years
- Comment made that it will be good to get involved with the school's expansion
- Comment made that West Bridgford has waited a long time for early years provision in a school
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion onto a site already owned by the County Council is a practical and logical solution
- Opinion expressed that a new school in the area would be a better option and that the proposed expansion feels like a cheap alternative
- Clarification sought on why Heymann Primary was proposed for expansion rather than other local schools
- Opinion expressed that it seems odd to expand the school when not over-subscribed, but that other schools in West Bridgford are
- Clarification sought on how the County Council can justify some children being educated in over crowded schools whilst others have large classrooms and better facilities

Staffing matters

- Unanimous support and a feeling of excitement and enthusiasm expressed by the staff of Heymann Primary for the proposals
- In opposing the early years proposal, comment made that other established pre-school settings have a high ratio of staff to prepare children for school as they currently attend at four years of age

Building and site related issues

- Concerns and reservations raised about both proposals and the effects these will have on general and emergency traffic in the area at the start and end of the school day. Opinions expressed that it is already challenging and congested, citing that Waddington Drive is too narrow for the existing traffic flow.
- Opinion expressed that access and parking difficulties at the existing Heymann school site will be eased, and comment made it was hoped that access and parking for the new site will be carefully planned to minimise congestion for the school and local community
- Feeling expressed that the position of the additional new school site will give Heymann Primary a higher profile in the area and community
- Comment made that if the number of places is needed and the only site available is that adjoining Heymann Primary, there seems little choice
- Opinion expressed that Heymann Primary is well sited to the proposed adjoining site and both parents and community are keen to make use of this
- Although support expressed for the proposed expansion, concern raised that the school will suffer greatly from a lack of land and playing field space

- Comment made of a possible opportunity, arising from a local land sale, to provide much needed additional facilities for schools in West Bridgford
- Clarification sought and opinion expressed on whether the early years proposal should be a priority when the school already has insufficient permanent classrooms for its current number of children
- Concern raised about the distance between the existing and proposed school sites and how this would impact on a parent's school run when having a child at both sites
- Concern raised regarding the safety of children crossing the main Loughborough Road to access the proposed new school site, and potential parking implications on this road by parents/carers dropping off/picking up their children at/from the site

Financial issues

- Concerns expressed that NCC remains aware of the potential negative impact the proposed expansion could have on other local schools, particularly if surplus places arose from the development, and remains prepared to support those schools financially if the proposal results in a downward impact on pupil numbers
- Opinion expressed that the early years proposal would have a devastating effect on other local early years providers. Why not expand existing facilities and fund them?

Pupil, Curriculum and Community related issues

- Concern expressed mainly for the children and adult to child care they will receive
- Feelings expressed of the proposed early years provision being a fantastic opportunity to ensure a seamless transition for pupils and create a familiar environment
- Deep concerns expressed about the nursery provision proposal and the effect it will have on long established and successful local Pre-schools
- Concern expressed that the proposed number of 39 early years places should be the minimum. Feeling also expressed that to be less than this would be detrimental to the consistent education of the children.
- Opinion expressed that the early years proposal will not be able to provide places for all children wanting to attend Heymann Primary
- Opinion expressed that children start school at too early an age
- Opinion expressed that it would be a shame for children to be denied the opportunity to mix with those attending other primary schools
- Assurance sought that NCC continually remains prepared to actively support the process of encouraging parents to consider all the local schools
- Concern expressed that the presence of the proposed nursery provision will encourage many parents to choose one school in preference to another local one, as children will be able to start earlier and remain in the same school
- Opinion expressed that there is a significant likelihood that parents will apply for places at Heymann Primary rather than other local schools without nursery provision, however effective that overall provision is
- Support expressed for both proposals providing the school can maintain their previous good levels in teaching and learning, and that resource allocation does not suffer
- Concerns raised that the school's resources and facilities are currently stretched to the limits and the children will suffer if the proposal is not completed by 2013
- Opinion expressed that a school is not appropriate for very young children and that many local early years settings are struggling to fill spaces in September 2012

- In opposing the proposed expansion, opinion expressed that Heymann Primary is able to accommodate its catchment area of children and that the school is not over-subscribed to cater for these.
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion will mean more out-of-catchment area children will attend Heymann Primary
- Feeling and opinion expressed respectively that the proposed early years proposal could offer valuable learning experiences that are currently lacking in the area for this age group
- Clarification sought on whether the proposed expansion was to cater for in-catchment children or is it intended to receive more children out-of-catchment
- Opinion expressed that it makes good sense to incorporate a child's nursery education into a setting where they will also receive their primary education, as it will provide a natural progression
- Comment made that the proposed early years places are urgently needed in West Bridgford and will provide the community with more choice of this type of setting
- Comment made that West Bridgford is a popular place for families so the proposed expansion made sense
- Clarification sought about school holiday cover for early years children if this provision is established at the school
- Opinion expressed that the proposed expansion will reduce a child's individual attention and quality of teaching
- Feeling expressed of not being sure a larger school means a better school
- Comment made that the proposed early years is a good idea to help working parents
- Clarification sought on whether two local schools will still do joint activities and so be cohesive
- Concern and opinion expressed over children who can't attend pre-school due to parents' working patterns, and therefore will be in the minority concerning reception admission
- Expression of support made for the proposed expansion providing there is a local need and the starting age of admission is 5 years
- In opposing the early years proposal, opinion expressed that parents should provide early years education to their children
- Concern expressed that owing to the changes affecting early years provision nationally, great pressure is increasing on local private childcare provision, the result of which being there is a large increase in unfilled places
- Feeling expressed that additional local authority early years places should only be increased when existing providers are unable to satisfy local demand
- Concern and opinion expressed that the proposed expansion will mean providing more opportunity for out-of-catchment children to be admitted to the school, and that other areas besides West Bridgford would benefit from having another school built