

26<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Agenda Item: 12

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS**

### **AMENDMENT TO CATCHMENT AREA DUE TO CLOSURE OF MANNERS SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, AVERHAM, NEWARK**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for an amendment to catchment area including an in-year variation request for admission arrangements 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to be submitted to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

#### **Information**

2. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Children and Young People's Committee approved the undertaking of a formal consultation to seek views on a proposal to close Manners Sutton Primary School. The consultation period was 4<sup>th</sup> January until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
3. The Children and Young People's Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 approved the closure of Manners Sutton Primary School from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.
4. All Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools have a catchment area which gives higher priority to children living within that area in the admission arrangements. Manners Sutton Primary School, as a community school, has a defined catchment area (**Appendix 1**).
5. Catchment areas form part of a school's admission arrangements and must be consulted upon, determined and published in the same way as other admission arrangements.
6. Once admission arrangements have been set for a particular school year (including catchment areas), they can only be revised by the admission authority in limited circumstances. Admission authorities can propose variations where they consider such changes necessary in view of a major change of circumstances.
7. Any changes to catchment areas for community and voluntary controlled schools would require the admission authority to refer to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to seek a variation.

8. As Manners Sutton Primary School will close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 children living within this area will no longer have a primary catchment area.

### Reassignment of catchment area

9. In considering any proposed change to catchment areas, historical admission information has been reviewed. The following table indicates the current school attended by children residing in the catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School:

School	Grand Total
Bleasby CofE Primary School	2
Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School	1
Chuter Ede Primary School	1
Holy Trinity Catholic Voluntary Academy	3
Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School	9
Lowe's Wong Infant School	2
Muskham Primary School	10
Norwell CofE Primary School	1
The King's Church of England Primary Academy	1
The Minster School	1
Wellow House School	2
Yeoman Park Academy	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

10. Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School, a voluntary controlled school, has approached the Council with a view to extending their catchment area to include the area of Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe (the area served by Manners Sutton Primary School). The school worked closely with Manners Sutton Primary School as part of a small school cluster arrangement that included Caunton Dean Hole Primary, Manners Sutton Primary and Kneesall Primary Schools.
11. The geographical area of Manners Sutton Primary catchment area is split by the River Trent and the A617, with Muskham Primary School to the North, Lowe's Wong Schools to the South and Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School to the West. A redistribution of the catchment area across the three schools is shown in **Appendix 2**.
12. As the Council is the admission authority for Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School, Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School and Muskham Primary School, a variation could be sought with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to vary the arrangements for those schools.
13. The area identified in **Appendix 2** indicating the proposed area for Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School is not served by a community or voluntary controlled infant school. Lowe's Wong Infant School and Holy Trinity CofE Infant School are both academy schools that have an identical catchment to Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School and both infant schools are linked to that junior school.

14. As academy schools, Lowe's Wong Infant School and Holy Trinity CofE Infant School are responsible for maintaining their catchment areas and for seeking any variation to amend admission arrangements for the school. Discussions have been held with both infant schools regarding the proposal to reassign the Manners Sutton Primary School. Both academies have indicated their wish to continue to operate with an identical catchment to that of Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School. The academies will propose a variation to their existing catchment areas and the Council has undertaken to support the academies with this process along with the Diocese.

### **Other Options Considered**

15. The Council could consider leaving this area without an assigned primary catchment area. This would mean families residing in this area would not have catchment priority for any community or voluntary controlled primary school.
16. The Council could consider assigning the entire area to Caunton Dean Hole CofE Primary School however, the Published Admission Number for this school was decreased to 8 (from 10) in 20221-2022 as the physical building space was not sufficient for a Published Admission Number of 10 to be sustained.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

17. To enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibility to seek approval from the Schools Adjudicator to vary its admission arrangements.
18. The proposed arrangement to split the catchment across the three schools would enable a better balance across the district and take into account the geographical area.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. 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**

20. Under the current home to school transport policy, free travel would be awarded to the nearest or catchment school. All children living in the Manners Sutton existing catchment area would be entitled to free travel to their nearest or catchment school as it would be an unavailable walking route to school. If all children attend a school that would give eligibility for travel assistance, the additional costs would be up to £40,000 per annum provided by a combination of minibus, taxi and parental mileage.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee gives approval for officers to seek approval from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to reassign the existing catchment area of Manners Sutton Primary School as outlined in **Appendix 2**.

**Marion Clay**  
**Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK 14/07/21)**

21. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SES 14/07/21)**

22. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
23. Under the current home to school transport policy, free travel would be awarded to the nearest or catchment school. All children living in the Manners Sutton existing catchment area would be entitled to free travel to their nearest or catchment school as it would be an unavailable walking route to school. If all children attend a school that would give eligibility for travel assistance, the additional costs would be up to £40,000 per annum provided by a combination of minibus, taxi and parental mileage.
24. The Home to School Transport budgetary provision is within the remit of the Transport and Environment Committee held by the Place Department. The appropriate additional costs in 2021/22 will be incurred within the existing budgetary provision and any ongoing full year effects will be incorporated into the 2022/23 budget construction.

### **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.

[Report to Children and Young People's Committee 15 March 2021 – Manners Sutton Primary School, Averham, Newark – outcome of the consultation on the proposal for closure](#)

[Office of the Schools Adjudicator – in-year variations to school admission arrangements](#)

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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