

20 May 2019**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****CHANGE OF AGE RANGE OF SCHOOLS: RELOCATION OF CHRIST
CHURCH INFANT VOLUNTARY AIDED (VA) SCHOOL, NEWARK, AND
EXTENSION OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT (VA) SCHOOL,
ASHFIELD: PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND CONSULTATION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members of the Children and Young People's Committee with the outcome of the publication of Statutory Notices and Statutory Consultation concerning:
 - a) a proposal to alter the age range of Christ Church Infant (VA) School to become a primary school and to enlarge the premises of the existing school by relocation to a site within the Newark growth point.
 - b) a proposal to alter the age range of All Saints CE Infant (VA) School in order for it to become a one form entry primary school and to change the admission arrangements which formally link All Saints CE Infant (VA) School with Woodland View Primary School.

Information

2. It is current County Council policy that consultations take place to actively consider the advantages of developments that will ensure the sustainability of small schools, including conversion of infant schools to through primary schools. It is also Nottinghamshire County Council's duty to ensure a sufficient supply of high quality school places, in response to demographic changes in the area. Where these consultations result in County Council approval, the statutory process is then invoked to progress such proposals to formal implementation.

Christ Church Infant School

3. Members' attention is drawn to a previous report, 'Change of Age Range of Schools: Relocation of Christ Church Infant Voluntary Aided (VA) School, Newark, and Extension of

All Saints Church of England Infant (VA) School, Ashfield', approved by the Committee on 19th November 2018.

4. This report, in relation to the Newark Town planning area which includes 'land south of Newark', and currently owned by developers Urban and Civic, incorporates a long term housing growth plan of up to 3,150 dwellings by 2034. The existing Section 106 agreement dated November 2011 (relating to application 10/01586/OUTM) provided for two primary schools: one creating a 1 form entry primary school (210 pupils) on a 1.1 hectare site and a second school providing 1.5 form entry (315 pupils), with the potential to grow to a 2 form entry (420 pupils) on a 2 hectare site. This suggests that the housing development as a whole will require provision for at least 630 primary aged pupils if all the housing is built.
5. Given the unpredictability of housing developments in general and the need to secure primary schools that are financially viable over the short, medium and long term, it has been agreed with Urban and Civic to vary the current Section 106 agreement (through a Deed of Variation) to replace the existing plan for two relatively small primary schools with one 2½ forms entry (525 places) primary school, built with the capacity to expand to 3 forms entry (630 places) should the need arise.
6. A planning application is now in preparation by Urban and Civic with a view to being considered by Newark and Sherwood District Council in June 2019. This application is for a 1 form entry primary school on a 3 hectare site which has the capacity to expand as the need arises. Phase 1 of the school will be built by Urban and Civic to be opened by September 2021 with Reception to Year 4 pupils. The school will then grow year by year to meet the needs of the development which means it will be 2023 before the school admits pupils to all year groups.
7. Following agreement between the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, the governing body of Christ Church Infant and Nursery School and Nottinghamshire County Council, the proposal to consult to alter the age range and increase capacity was approved by the Children and Young People's Committee on 19th November 2018.
8. Projections indicate that there is a sufficiency of primary school places in the Newark Town planning area until September 2023, by which time it is expected that a single site school will be delivered by Middlebeck housing developers. To meet the need for school places during the early part of this housing development, Members have agreed to extend the age range of the current Christ Church Infant School to a primary school. Early arrivals in Middlebeck could be educated at the proposed Christ Church Primary, and existing Newark primary schools, pending the relocation of Christ Church Primary onto its site new on the land south of Newark.
9. This proposal, supported by the Southwell CE Diocese, allows Christ Church to maintain its historical link to Newark Town and grow to become a primary school within the new development, which will sustain a small church Aided infant school converting to a larger Aided primary school. The proposal also secures sufficient school places in the short and medium term as the housing development grows from Summer 2019 until Autumn 2026 and beyond.

Christ Church Consultation

10. Prior to initiating a formal statutory process, informal discussions were held between staff and governor representatives of Christ Church Infant and Nursery School, the Southwell CE Diocese and the County Council about the possibility of altering the age range to make a through primary school and enlarging the premises by moving to a nearby site and new building in order to increase the school's net capacity.
11. Consultation was undertaken in accordance with Department for Education 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers', October 2018, which states that:
 - a) Governing Bodies of '.. voluntary schools can propose .. an age range change of 3 years or more..... by following the statutory process'. In this case, the Local Authority is the decision-maker
 - b) The Local Authority can propose, for VA schools, an 'Enlargement of premises' by following the statutory process. In this case, the Local Authority is the decision-maker.
12. Therefore, joint consultation took place on 'Related Proposals for Alteration of Age Range and Enlargement of Premises of an Existing School', in which:
 - a) the Governing Body of Christ Church Infant School formally consulted on a statutory proposal for alteration of age range
 - b) the County Council formally consulted on a statutory proposal for enlargement of premises of an existing school.
13. The formal consultation process took place between 25th February and 24th March 2019. During this period, the joint proposals were publicised on the websites of Christ Church Infant School (which informed its school community) and Nottinghamshire County Council, while notification was sent to neighbouring schools, the district council, the local MP and other interested parties. Statutory notices were published on the school site and in the local press.
14. Consultation meetings were held by governors and the County Council with school staff, parents/carers, and interested parties on 28th February 2019. These provided participants with opportunities to discuss with governors and officers of the Southwell CE Diocese and the County Council the implications of conversion to a primary school and relocation to a new building on the Middlebeck development.
15. There were 21 responses to consultation received by the **Governing Body** regarding its proposal that the age range of Christ Church Infant School be altered, converting it to a primary school:
 - a) 5% agreed with the proposal to alter the age range
 - b) 95% disagreed with the above proposal.
16. Of the 21 respondents 86% (18) identified themselves as staff of neighbouring schools, all of whom disagreed with the proposal.

17. On 28th March 2019, the Chair of Governors of Christ Church Infant School informed the County Council that 'Our decision as governors is to continue with the proposal to alter the age range of Christ Church C of E Infant and Nursery School in order to make it a through primary school', requesting that the process should progress to County Council approval.
18. There were 21 responses to consultation received by the **County Council** regarding its proposal that the premises of Christ Church Infant School be enlarged:
 - a) 5% agreed with the proposal to enlarge the premises
 - b) 95% disagreed with the above proposal.
19. Of the 21 respondents 86% (18) identified themselves as staff of neighbouring schools, all of whom disagreed with the proposal.

All Saints CE Infant School

20. Following agreement between the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, the governing body of All Saints CE Infant School and Nottinghamshire County Council, the proposal to consult to alter the age range and increase capacity was approved by the Children and Young People's Committee on 19th November 2018.
21. Projections indicate that from September 2020 there is a growing shortage of places which becomes acute from September 2021. All Saints CE Infant School is popular and over-subscribed. Huthwaite has been identified in a previous report to Committee (December 2017), on Basic Need 2018, as a priority area for school places, therefore funding for this proposal has already been agreed.
22. Exploratory discussions have taken place with all the key stakeholders related to All Saints Infant School, the All Saints Centre and Woodland View Primary School. In-principle agreement by all parties has been generated.
23. A feasibility study has since been commissioned to establish the viability of options that will deliver additional primary places in Huthwaite. Among options considered by this study is one to develop a Key Stage 2 (junior age children) facility with a suitably sized playing field, hall, off-street parking and pre-school on the All Saints Infant School side of Common Road. The study will also include consideration of possible reconfiguration, as necessary, of the existing accommodation at Woodland View Primary School such that it will be able to operate with a through PAN (Published Admissions Number) of 50. This may require investment in a Foundation Stage 'pod'.
24. The proposal under consultation is to reconfigure the existing All Saints CE Infant School into a one form entry primary school (210 places), with a PAN of 30 from 1st September 2021. Admissions to the new primary school would be carefully managed so that the PAN of 30 would gradually be extended sequentially from Year 3 to Year 6, thus 'growing' Key Stage 2 classes gradually until the full range of year groups was in place by September 2024.
25. The realignment of admission arrangements removing the link between All Saints and Woodland View would be phased over four years. This would allow for the growth at All

Saints to embed, and families with an existing sibling link between the two schools to be sustained over a reasonable period.

All Saints Consultation

26. Prior to initiating a formal statutory process, informal discussions were held between staff and governor representatives of All Saints Infant and Nursery School, the Southwell CE Diocese and the County Council about the possibility of altering the age range to make a through primary school and enlarging the premises by moving to a nearby site and building in order to increase the school's net capacity.
27. Consultation was undertaken in accordance with Department for Education 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools: Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers', October 2018, which states that:
 - a) Governing Bodies of '.. voluntary schools can propose .. an age range change of 3 years or more..... by following the statutory process'. In this case, the Local Authority is the decision-maker
 - b) The Local Authority can propose, for VA schools, an 'Enlargement of premises' by following the statutory process. In this case, the Local Authority is the decision-maker.
28. Therefore, joint consultation took place on 'Related Proposals for Alteration of Age Range and Enlargement of Premises of an Existing School', in which:
 - a) the Governing Body of All Saints CE Infant School formally consulted on a statutory proposal for alteration of age range
 - b) the County Council formally consulted on a statutory proposal for enlargement of premises of an existing school.
29. The formal consultation process took place between 25th February and 24th March 2019. During this period, the joint proposals were publicised on the websites of All Saints CE Infant School (which informed its school community) and Nottinghamshire County Council, while notification was sent to neighbouring schools, the district council, the local MP and other interested parties. Statutory notices were published on the school site and in the local press.
30. Consultation meetings were held by governors and the County Council with school staff, parents/carers, and interested parties on 14th March 2019. These provided opportunities for participants to discuss with governors and officers of the Southwell CE Diocese and the County Council the implications of conversion to a primary school and expansion into the All Saints Centre site.
31. There were 15 responses to consultation received by the **Governing Body** regarding its proposal that the age range of All Saints CE Infant School be altered, converting it to a primary school:
 - a) 73% agreed with the proposal to alter the age range
 - b) 27% disagreed with the above proposal.
32. On 28th March 2019, the Chair of Governors of All Saints CE Infant School informed the County Council that, 'Our decision as Governors is to continue with the proposal to alter

the age range of All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant and Pre-School, in order to make it a through Primary School’.

33. There were 177 responses to consultation received by the **County Council** regarding its proposal that the premises of All Saints CE Infant school be enlarged:
- a) 39% agreed with the proposal to enlarge the premises
 - b) 61% disagreed with the above proposal.
34. In terms of opposition to the proposal:
- 34% objected on the grounds of traffic concerns
 - 23% objected on the grounds of the loss of facilities at The All Saints Centre
 - 19% objected on the grounds that the proposal would have a negative impact on Woodland View Primary School
 - 9% objected on the grounds of safeguarding concerns.
 - 6% objected on the grounds of noise.
 - 4% objected on the grounds of the consultative process
 - 4% objected on the grounds that there would be a loss of dining facilities
 - 1% had non-specific objections.

Other Options Considered

35. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

Christ Church Infant School:

36. The County Council retains statutory responsibility to secure a sufficiency of school places for all school aged children within Nottinghamshire. House building on the Middlebeck site has commenced. Therefore, it is necessary to provide for the growth in demand for places in the primary education phase in Newark by changing the age range of Christ Church Infant School for it to become a primary school and enlarging its premises through relocation to a larger site on the Middlebeck development.

All Saints CE Infant School:

37. The County Council retains statutory responsibility to secure a sufficiency of school and childcare places for all children within Nottinghamshire. Projections indicate that there is a shortage of primary school places in Huthwaite which will become acute from September 2021.
38. It is recommended, therefore, that Committee supports the proposal to change the age range of All Saints CE Infant School and enlarge the premises at this school, subject to the outcome of a feasibility study; also to modify the admissions arrangements with respect to All Saints CE Infant and Woodland View Primary schools.

Statutory and Policy Implications

39. 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

Christ Church Infant School:

40. A school's annual funding is determined by the number of pupils recorded on the October census in the preceding year which is referred to as a 'lagged' basis and met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
41. The change in age range would need to be dealt with in accordance with the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 to ensure that the school is appropriately funded for the additional pupils who would not have appeared on the October census.

All Saints CE Infant School:

42. A provisional sum of £2.5m has been identified in the Basic Need 2019 budget to meet the cost of this proposal.
43. A school's annual funding is determined by the number of pupils recorded on the October census in the preceding year which is referred to as a 'lagged' basis and met from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
44. The change in age range would need to be dealt with in accordance with the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 to ensure that the school is appropriately funded for the additional pupils who would not have appeared on the October census.
45. Both schools are the subject of growth and therefore eligible for non staffing related establishment costs from the Pupil Growth Fund, the value of which are yet to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) approves the proposal to change the age range of Christ Church Infant School for it to become a primary school.
- 2) approves the proposal to relocate Christ Church Primary School and to rebuild it on a site in the Middlebeck development

- 3) approves the proposal to change the age range of All Saints CE Infant School in order for it to become a one form entry primary school.
- 4) approves the proposal to alter the admission arrangements which formally link All Saints CE Infant School with Woodland View Primary School.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 25/04/19)

46. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS/GB 10/05/19)

47. The core revenue funding for schools is met from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and is based on the preceding October pupil numbers. Where there is a change in age range The School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 allow for a variation to the school's pupil numbers to ensure that the school is appropriately funded for the additional pupils who would not have appeared on the October census. The increased funding allocation associated with the variation of pupil numbers and any eligible non staffing set up costs, from the enlargement of premises, will be met from the Growth Funding element of the DSG and reported to the Schools Forum. The Schools Block funding allocation for 2019-20 is £482.064m, the allocation for 2020-21 is not yet known.
48. The proposal to replace Christ Church Infants with a 2.5 form entry primary school with the capacity to expand to three form entry is expected to be fully funded from Section 106 funding with no requirement for forward funding. The £2.5m proposal to reconfigure the existing All Saints CE Infant School into a one form entry primary school is proposed to be funded from School Places Programme. The total 2019/20 School Places Programme capital budget is £19.0m and is a part of the approved Children and Young People's Committee capital programme. For both of these projects there will be a requirement for variations to the capital programme through the usual capital approval processes.

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.

Change of age range and relocation of Christ Church Infant (VA) School, Newark – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19th November 2018

Change of age range and extension of All Saints CE (VA) Infant School, Ashfield - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 19th November 2018

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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