



CABINET

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION: LESLEY HAGGER

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
EDUCATION: COUNCILLOR MATTHEW GOLBY**

Subject:	School place planning – expansion of Wollaston Community Primary School
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the increased admission number at Wollaston Community Primary School from 45 to 60 per year group to provide 105 new primary places following a statutory period of representation, conducted between 16th June and 14th July 2016. Increase to take place from September 2018; 2. approve the financial and governance arrangements associated with the capital scheme; 3. agree the capital scheme for the extension at Wollaston Community Primary School and authorise the scheme to proceed to the construction phase within available and agreed financial resources; 4. delegate authority to the Director for Children, Families & Education in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders to approve, accept, award and appoint the preferred bidder and to execute or authorise the execution of all the necessary documentation to facilitate the proposal.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet members with all the necessary information required to make a fully informed decision on the proposal to extend the permanent capacity of Wollaston Community Primary School from 315 to 420 places.

2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan

The Council’s vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county’s communities and/or safeguarding the county’s communities.

This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and safeguarding by ensuring that:

- People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities.
- Resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, in coordination with partners and providers.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following a Cabinet Member Decision on 2nd June 2016, a statutory notice of expansion for Wollaston Community Primary School was published on 16th June 2016, to expand the capacity of the school from 315 to 420 places.
- 3.2 Demand for school places in the area is high. Wollaston is a popular school and is expected to be at or over capacity in all its year groups in September 2016. Other schools in the area include Grendon, Bozeat, Irchester and Great Doddington. These are all at or over capacity except Bozeat, which has limited availability in some year groups.
- 3.3 The school was previously extended in 2014 and its admission number increased from 40 to 45 per year group. However in both 2014 and 2015, demand for Reception places at the school from villagers and children with siblings exceeded the number of places available. The school have admitted above their admission number to accommodate these children and currently have 54 and 52 children on roll, in the affected year groups.
- 3.4 The Council has worked closely with both the school and Wollaston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to provide a solution to the demand for school places in the area. Both have a clear desire for the primary school to expand to enable it to accommodate children living in the village and also the anticipated increase in demand due to future development. This is reflected in their Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 The decision to extend Wollaston forms the final part of the statutory process for school organisational changes of this nature. The full statutory process is prescribed in the 'Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools' statutory guidance booklet, published by the DfE in April 2016. Northamptonshire County Council has complied fully with all relevant legislation and guidance on the subject, a brief description of which can be found below;
- A four week period of non-statutory consultation conducted between 18th April and 13th May 2016;
 - Publication of statutory notice of expansion – 16th June 2016 (Appendix 1);
 - Statutory four week period of representation on the proposed expansion, conducted between 16th June and 14th July 2016.
- 4.2 Two responses have been received during the statutory period of representation (Appendix 2). One is from the Parish Council and is in full support of the extension, the other relates to concerns around traffic/parking and the impact of the extension. The building has been designed as a two storey extension to minimise any impact on outdoor space; this was an important consideration during design development. The impact of additional traffic/parking at the school will be addressed as part of the planning process and the school is in the process of updating its travel plan. An informal pre planning consultation event is scheduled in September for parents and local residents to view the plans, and provide feedback, prior to submission for

planning approval.

The consultation process outlined above is concerned solely with the principle of expanding schools. The building plans are subject to a separate statutory consultation process that will be undertaken by the planning authority once a planning application is submitted.

5. Equality Screening

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and identifies potential positive implications for age and disability. These are set out in more detail in the Equality Impact Assessment which can be found here:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/CYP-EIA.aspx>

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 These are detailed in the Cabinet Member Decision report

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Capital Investment Board recommended the scheme for approval on August 9th, at a cost of £1.2m. The project will be funded from DfE Basic Need grant.

7.2 The revenue implications are dealt with through the formula allocations in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Council also has the Pupil Growth Fund in the DSG to manage increased pupil numbers prior to these being reflected in formulaic school budgets.

	Current year	Forecast		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 & beyond
	£166,893	£947,107	£86,000	£0
Capital Investment				
Costs	£166,893	£947,107	£86,000	£0
Funded by	<i>DfE Basic Need Grant</i>			
On-going costs (revenue)				
Costs - Staffing	The impact on revenue costs for the school will be met through increased pupil numbers and their delegated budget			
Other				
Total on-going costs (revenue)				
Funded by	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)			

What benefits will the proposal deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides new primary places in Northamptonshire, ensuring the Council can meet its statutory obligations; • Increased parental choice and diversity; • Capital investment in school facilities; • Masterplanning and educational infrastructure for
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	new communities.
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8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Proposals not supported by stakeholders	Consultation process	Amber
Planning permission not granted	Early dialogue with planners	Amber
Lack of capital funding	DfE grant support for new places	Green

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Northamptonshire County Council will be unable to meet its statutory obligation of providing sufficiency of school places in the county.	Red
Increase in travel costs resulting from pupils being allocated alternative school places over two miles from their home address.	Red

9. List of Appendices

Appendix1: - Public Notice, Wollaston Community Primary School

Appendix 2 - Responses relating to Wollaston Public Notice

Author:	Name: Jackie Desmond Team: Strategic Planning
Contact details:	Tel: 01604 366135 Fax: 01604 367011 Email: jdesmond@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Background Papers:	Cabinet Member Decision – 2 nd June 2016
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	YES
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)?	YES Name of SFM: James Smith
Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)?	YES/NO
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Lesley Hagger

Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Cllr Matthew Golby
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	YES Scrutiny Committee:
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Duncan Bisatt
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Joni Ager
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: Roger Moore/James Wheeler
Are there any community safety implications?	YES These are considered at the design stage of all school projects.
Are there any environmental implications:	YES These are considered as part of the planning process and necessary measures adhered to.
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	YES These are an important consideration in the designing and construction of school extensions, and are considered at all stages of the project.
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	YES Schools / Academy providers are responsible for the appointment of staff.
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	Cllr Sue Homer (Irchester)

