



**CABINET**

**10 JANUARY 2017**

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION: LESLEY HAGGER**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE COMMISSIONING: TONY CIABURRO**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES:  
COUNCILLOR GOLBY**

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL & PUBLIC PROTECTION:  
COUNCILLOR GONZÁLEZ DE SAVAGE**

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| <b>Subject:</b>         | School place planning – expansion of All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School   |
| <b>Recommendations:</b> | <p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Approve the increased admission number at All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School from 30 to 60 per year group to provide 210 new primary places following a statutory period of representation, conducted between 10<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.</li><li>2. Note the increase in pupil places will now take place from September 2018, not September 2017 as previously planned;</li><li>3. Approve the financial and governance arrangements associated with the capital scheme;</li><li>4. Note that a capital scheme will be required to provide the necessary accommodation associated with this expansion of pupil numbers and that this will be delivered via a new build annex on a site being acquired on Croyland Road;</li><li>5. Subject to the governance processes of the Capital Programme Board, authorise the final scheme to proceed to the construction phase within available and agreed financial resources; and</li><li>6. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Place Commissioning 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 capital scheme.</li></ol> |

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet members with all the necessary information required to approve a proposal for an additional 210 primary school places in Wellingborough. As the Council moves to a Next Generation Model for the delivery

of outcomes for Northamptonshire residents, this report encompasses the CFE statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places and the emerging role of the Place Directorate in planning and delivering school organisation matters and associated capital schemes. It is proposed to extend the permanent capacity of All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School from 210 to 420 places by building a 210 pupil place Annex on the site of the former swimming pool in Croyland Road.

## 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.

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| This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by ensuring that: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities.</li><li>• Resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, in coordination with partners and providers.</li></ul> |
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## 3. Background

3.1 A Cabinet Member Decision on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 approved the publication of a statutory notice of expansion after consideration of the need for additional primary school places in Wellingborough. The background report outlines the proposal to expand the capacity of All Saints Primary from 210 to 420 places and to provide additional accommodation via a new build Annex on Croyland Road.

3.2 The Notice was published on 10 November 2016 and there followed a four week period of representation; the feedback is included in this report. As reported in October, the Borough Council of Wellingborough has no objection to the increased numbers at All Saints and acknowledges that more school places are needed. Peterborough Diocese Board of Education also supports the expansion of this voluntary aided school.

3.3 Approval for the site acquisition associated with the scheme was given at Cabinet in October 2016 and authority delegated to the Corporate Director Place Commissioning to negotiate and agree the acquisition of the site on the most favourable terms and to ensure Best Value considerations were met. The terms of the acquisition have been approved in principle and the deal should be concluded early in the New Year after due diligence has taken place by both parties.

3.4 An initial feasibility study has been completed by Property Services to design the Annex and identify a procurement route. The SCAPE framework is being investigated as an alternative to previous contractor frameworks and would require the Council to enter into a Delivery Agreement prior to tendering. The Capital Programme Board will be asked to consider the procurement options and make a recommendation to Cabinet on the most advantageous procurement route. The construction programme is expected to be c 26 weeks and would complete in Spring 2018, ready for a September intake of pupils.

3.5 It was anticipated that the school would be completed and open for pupils by September 2017, however this has been delayed until September 2018 due to land purchase and procurement challenges. The school do not have any surplus capacity to accommodate an additional class on their Castle Street site.

#### **4. Consultation and Scrutiny**

4.1 The decision to extend All Saints forms the final part of the statutory process for school organisational changes of this nature. The full statutory process is outlined 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 12<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016;
- Publication of statutory notice of expansion – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (Appendix 1);
- Statutory four week period of representation on the proposed expansion, conducted between 10<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

4.2 Details of the non-statutory consultation feedback regarding the principle of expansion can be found in the Cabinet Member Decision report of October 2016. Two further responses have been received during the statutory period of representation following publication of the statutory notice, as provided in Appendix 2. The County Council does not consider there to be any significant impact on Croyland Primary's intake, as there is a need for more pupil places overall (in addition to the new primary schools associated with major housing development at Stanton Cross and Upper Redhill). An informal pre planning consultation event will be scheduled for parents and local residents to view the plans, and provide feedback, prior to submission for planning approval. The school will update its travel plan prior to the opening of the site.

4.3 The consultation process outlined above is concerned solely with the principle of expanding schools. The proposed accommodation solution of an Annex will deliver all the required accommodation for 210 pupils including external play space, playing fields and staff car-parking. This will be subject to a separate statutory consultation process 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 The capital scheme for the Annex will be subject to further consideration by the Capital Programme Board prior to finalising the scheme's budget and procurement route. The project will be funded from DfE Basic Need grant and Section 106 contributions. Initial cost estimates are that a maximum budget of £5.7m will be required; this includes the cost of the site acquisition. The Board will consider whether savings can be made from an alternative design solution / procurement route.

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 |
|                                 | £919,395  | £4,693,045 | £89,140 | £000             |
| <b>Capital Investment</b>       |   |            |         |                  |
| Costs                           | £919,395  | £4,693,045 | £89,140 |                  |
| Funded by                       | Basic Need Grant and Section 106 contributions  |            |         |                  |
| <b>On-going costs (revenue)</b> |   |            |         |                  |
| 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)   |            |         |                  |

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| What benefits will the proposal deliver? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides new primary places in Northamptonshire, ensuring the Council can meet its statutory obligations;</li> <li>• Increased parental choice and diversity;</li> <li>• Capital investment in school facilities;</li> <li>• More sustainable size of school in terms of future budget and curriculum management;</li> <li>• Masterplanning and educational infrastructure for growing communities.</li> </ul> |
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## 8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risks 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         |

| Risk                    | Mitigation                            | Residual Risk |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lack of capital funding | S106 contributions do not materialise | Amber         |

b) Risks associated with not undertaking the proposal

| Risk   | Residual Risk |
|--|---------------|
| 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

- Appendix 1: - Public Notice, All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
- Appendix 2 - Responses relating to All Saints Public Notice

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| Author:  | Name: Jackie Desmond<br>Team: Strategic Planning   |
| Contact details:   | Tel: 01604 366135 Fax: 01604 367011<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jdesmond@northamptonshire.gov.uk">jdesmond@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a> |
| Background Papers:   | Cabinet Member Decision – 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2016<br>Cabinet Report - October 11 <sup>th</sup> 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)?<br>Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB) | YES<br>Name of SFM: James Smith<br><br>YES   |
| Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?  | YES<br>Name of Director: Lesley Hagger   |
| Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?  | YES<br>Cabinet Member: Cllr Matthew Golby  |
| Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?  | NO<br>Scrutiny Committee:  |
| Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?   | YES<br>Name of solicitor: Duncan Bisatt  |

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|  | Solicitor's comments:   |
| Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing? | YES<br>Name of officer: Joni Ager   |
| Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?      | YES<br>Name of officer: James Wheeler   |
| Are there any community safety implications?                                 | YES<br>These are considered at the design stage of all school projects.   |
| Are there any environmental implications:                                    | YES<br>These are considered as part of the planning process and necessary measures adhered to.  |
| Are there any Health & Safety Implications:                                  | YES<br>These are an important consideration in the designing and construction of school buildings, and are considered at all stages of the project. |
| Are there any Human Resources Implications:                                  | YES<br>Schools / Academy providers are responsible for the appointment of staff.  |
| Are there any human rights implications:                                     | NO  |
| Constituency Interest:   | Cllr Bhupendra Patel (Finedon)  |