

Additional Information for Members – Factors to be Considered by Decision Makers

Using relevant extracts from Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance - 'Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School'

The information presented below is intended to assist Members in their decision-making on the proposal to expand Oakefield Primary and Nursery School from 315 to 420 school places. Please refer to the DfE 'Extract of Decision Makers' Guidance' (**Annex 5**)

1 EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

DfE Guidance	Extracted Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
A System Shaped by Parents The Government's aim - a schools system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity....a dynamic system in which weak schools that need to be closed are closed quickly and replaced by new ones where necessary; and the best schools are able to expand and spread their ethos and success.	4.17	<p>Ofsted currently categorise Oakefield Primary school as being in "special measures" and therefore requiring intervention. It is important to note that full and careful consideration had been given to the status of the school prior to seeking permission to consult on the proposed expansion. Officers took advice from colleagues in the Strategy, Planning & Performance team who are satisfied that intervention measures would deliver a more positive outcome for the school.</p> <p>A recent Ofsted monitoring visit (1-2 December 2011) concluded that the school has made significant progress in the last 4 months and that the re-structured leadership team was now judged as outstanding and the quality of teaching and learning was judged as good overall. (see Appendix 6.1)</p>	The Local Authority is fully confident that current rates of progress will continue and that the current interim leadership arrangements, which are in place for three years, will allow for real embedding of best practices and deliver sustainable improvements for all learners.

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<p>The EIA 2006 amends the Education Act 1996 to place duties on LAs to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools in their areas.</p> <p>In addition, LAs are under a specific duty to respond to representations from parents about the provision of schools, including requests to establish new schools or make changes to existing schools. The Government's aim is to secure a more diverse and dynamic schools system which is shaped by parents.</p> <p>The Decision Maker should take into account the extent to which the proposals are consistent with the new duties on LAs.</p>	4.18	<p>The Crewe Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 21 primary schools and 5 secondary schools covering the areas of Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, and Shavington. The total primary school capacity across this area is 7002 pupil places, 14 of these primary schools are located within Crewe town providing 4925 pupil places for this area.</p> <p>The pupil census taken in January 2012, indicates that there are currently 4667 pupils attending the 14 town schools providing an overall surplus of just over 5.5%. However, much of this surplus is in the upper year groups and concentrated within a small number of schools.</p> <p>Live Birth data for the period 2004 to 2010 indicates that the overall birth rate for Cheshire East is just over 6% which is below the national average of 13% . However the number of live births vary from one area of the authority to another with Crewe and Nantwich seeing an increase of 14% between the same period.</p>	<p>This proposal was identified to address a Basic Need in Crewe. This is in order to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for its residents in this area of the Borough.</p> <p>The area Crewe is under pressure in the lower aged groups and therefore primary schools with the potential to expand have been identified to provide the much needed additional capacity.</p>
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Decision Makers should be satisfied that proposals for a school expansion will contribute to raising local standards of provision, and will lead to improved attainment for children and young people. Decision-makers should pay particular attention to the effects on groups that tend to under-perform including children from certain ethnic groups, children from deprived backgrounds and children in care, with the aim of narrowing attainment gaps.	4.20	See paragraph 4.17 – 4.18 above	See paragraph 4.17 – 4.18 above
Diversity – The Government's aim is to transform our school system so that every child receives an excellent education – whatever their background and wherever they live. A vital part of the Government's vision is to create a more diverse school system offering excellence and choice, where each school has a strong ethos and sense of mission and acts as a centre of excellence or specialist provision.	4.22	See paragraph 4.17 – 4.18 above	See paragraph 4.17 – 4.18 above
Decision Makers should consider how proposals will impact on local diversity. They should consider the range of schools in the relevant area of the LA and whether the expansion of the school will meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.	4.23	Of the 21 primary schools in the Crewe LAP 20 are Community Schools offering a total of 6442 school places and 1 is Voluntary Aided offering a total of 560 school places. The 14 Crewe town primary schools consist of 13 Community Schools'	The proposal would increase the total number of available school places in community schools by 105 and therefore increasing the opportunity for parental preference to be met.

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		offering a total of 4365 school places and the 1 Voluntary Aided offering a total of 560 school places.	
Every Child Matters – The Decision Maker should consider how proposals will help every child and young person achieve their potential in accordance with “Every Child Matters” principles which are: to be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution to the community and society; and achieve economic well-being. This should include considering how the school will provide a wide range of extended services, opportunities for personal development, access to academic and applied learning training, measures to address barriers to participation and support for children and young people with particular needs, e.g. looked after children or children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.	4.24	<p>Oakefield Primary and Nursery School offer nursery provision 5 mornings a week between 8.35am and 12.00am. for 26 children aged 3 and 4</p> <p>Although the school do not operate any before or after child care facilities they do provide a number of after school clubs. The number and type of extra curriculum activities on offer change each term but include Art, Crafts, Football, Netball, Books, Reading, Sewing and Choir.</p> <p>In addition the school provides extended services to the wider community consisting of :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English and Maths tuition • parental support (family learning) • Adult learning – training for Teaching Assistants to level 1 and 2. • Mothers and Toddlers – 1 afternoon a week 	<p>The school are currently investigating the possibility of extending the nursery provision to 52 places thus allowing more children to develop life skills.</p> <p>After school clubs and the extended services to the local community will continue should the proposed expansion go ahead.</p>

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		<p>SEN – Oakefield Primary and Nursery School is a fully inclusive mainstream primary school with 283 children on roll, no school places are specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently the school has 5 statemented children and 3 children at school action plus on roll which is equivalent to an overall of 2.8% which is below the Cheshire East average of 15% and the national average of 20%</p>	<p>If the proposal to expand the school is approved, the increased capacity will deliver additional places for all children, including those with special educational needs and thereby the impact of the proposal will have a positive impact on parents and carers seeking places for their children.</p>
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SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Equal Opportunity Issues – The Decision Maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed, for example that where there is a proposed change to single sex provision in an area, there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly there needs to be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while</p>	4.27	<p>The local authority is bound by the Admissions Code and regulations and this does not allow for any discrimination in respect of sex, race or disability.</p> <p>Oakefield currently has a typical racial make-up which compares to the racial make-up across all Crewe wards.</p> <p>Oakefield Primary & Nursery 96% White 3% Mixed/ Dual Background</p>	<p>The racial make-up of the school is not expected to be impacted upon by the proposed expansion and it is expected that the overall impact will be neutral.</p> <p>The proposed expansion will have a marginally positive impact on young people and parents with a disability because the provision of additional places will overall provide sufficient places closer to peoples places of residence. The proposal will also offer greater parental choice for those</p>

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ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.		<p>0.5% Asian or Asian British 0.5% Black or Black British.</p> <p>All Crewe Wards 93% White 3% Mixed/ Dual Background 2% Asian or Asian British 1% Black or Black British 1% Other</p>	families with wider caring responsibilities for household members with a disability.
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3 NEED FOR PLACES

Guidance	Paragraphs	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Creating Additional Places – The Decision Maker should consider whether there is a need for the expansion and should consider the evidence presented for the expansion such as planned housing development or demand for provision. The Decision Maker should take into account not only the existence of spare capacity in neighbouring schools, but also the quality and popularity with parents of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for places in the school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus places in the neighbouring less popular or successful schools should not in</p>	4.28	<p>The Crewe Local Area Partnership (LAP) has 21 primary schools and 5 secondary schools covering the areas of Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, and Shavington. The total primary school capacity across this area is 7002 pupil places, 14 of these primary schools are located within Crewe town providing 4925 pupil places for this area.</p> <p>The 14 Crewe town primary schools currently provide a total of 708 reception places. However, for Reception 2011 pupils the Authority faced a shortfall. The Pupil Census undertaken in January 2012 has shown</p>	<p>This scheme was identified to address a Basic Need for school places in the Crewe area.</p> <p>The proposed expansion is intended to contribute to much needed additional capacity in an area of the Borough and ensure that the Authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in this area.</p> <p>The Oakefield proposal is one of four changes proposed for this area at this stage. The extent of expansion in the other three schools is small and therefore falls outside school</p>

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<p>itself prevent the addition of new places.</p>	<p>that across the 14 primary schools there are currently 751 pupils in Reception and several schools have admitted above their published admission number (PAN) to accommodate these additional pupils.</p> <p>To date, for Reception 2012, the Local Authority has received a total of 1088 requests indicating a shortfall of 82 reception class places</p> <p>Overall pupil forecasts for the Crewe LAP indicated that there would be a total of 6577 pupils across all year groups by September 2011. The number of pupils on roll across all year groups as shown by the January 2012 pupil census is 6619 an increase of 42 pupils or 0.64% above original forecasts.</p> <p>Pupil Forecasts for Crewe LAP already indicate that there will be a continuing shortfall of places with only 1% and 2% vacancies across all 14 schools by 2015 and 2016. The additional numbers on roll and in particular the increased numbers on roll in the lower year groups will have negative impact on current forecasts and the increase the expected shortfall</p>	<p>organisation statutory procedures which must be implemented for increases of 30 pupils or more and 25% increase on the current capacity. If the proposal to enlarge Oakefield is approved, the combined increase in the number of reception class places for the area of Crewe would be 32. This would deliver a much needed increase in the overall capacity (all year groups) of 224 places to address basic need for this area. Work is ongoing to identify further expansion opportunity.</p> <p>It is important to note that any additional housing in this area will add further pressure on school places. Where additional capacity is required due to increased pupil populations arising out of new housing developments, capital contributions will be sought from developers during the planning application process.</p>
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		The authority is therefore proposing some long term measures, including the proposed expansion of Oakefield Primary & Nursery School.	
<p>Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools-</p> <p>The Government is committed to ensuring that every parent can choose an excellent school for their child. They have made clear that the wishes of parents should be taken into account in planning and managing school places. Places should be allocated where parents want them, and as such, it should be easier for successful and popular schools to grow to meet parental demand</p> <p>For the purposes of the guidance the Secretary of State does not propose any single definition of a successful and popular school. It is for the Decision Maker to decide whether a school is successful and popular, however, the following indicators should be taken into account.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The schools performance 2. The number of applications for places. 	4.31	<p>Although Ofsted currently categorise the school as being in “special measures” and therefore requiring intervention the school continues to receive applications in excess of its published admission number. The number of first preference applications for reception class in 2010 and 2011 exceeded the school’s published admission number (PAN) of 45 and the number of first preference applications for reception 2012 is currently 45. However, Oakefield Primary and Nursery School has traditionally received a number of late applications following the offer date.</p> <p>In addition the number of children resident within the schools catchment area has been steadily increasing since 2009 and is now nearly double the school’s current capacity of 315 school places Given the increasing live births in the Crewe area this is expected to continue to rise in future years.</p>	<p>A recent Ofsted monitoring visit (1-2 December 2011) concluded that the school has made significant progress in the last 4 months and that the re-structured leadership team was now judged as outstanding and the quality of teaching and learning was judged as good overall.</p> <p>The local authority is confident that the progress will continue and expect the school’s popularity to increase accordingly.</p>

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Before approving proposals the Decision Maker should confirm that the admission arrangements of schools proposed for expansion fully meet the provisions of the School Admissions Code. Although the Decision Maker may not modify proposed admission arrangements, the proposer should be informed that proposals with unsatisfactory admission arrangements are unlikely to be approved, and given the opportunity to revise them in line with the Code of Practice. Where the LA, rather than the governing body, is the admissions authority, we will expect the authority to take action to bring the admission arrangements in to line with the School Admissions Code.	4.34	<p>Oakefield Primary and Nursery School is a Community school and Cheshire East Council is the admissions authority.</p> <p>As the Admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools the Council are responsible for the allocation of school places in accordance with the Council's published admission arrangements.</p> <p>The Council's admission arrangements are determined and comply to the mandatory provisions of The School Admissions Code issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998(SSFA 1998)</p>	N/A
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4 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
Travel and Accessibility for All - In considering proposals for the reorganisation of schools, Decision makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account. Facilities are to be accessible by those concerned, by being located close to those who will use them	4.35	<p>In making this recommendation the authority has given consideration to a number of issues including the number of pupils in each school's catchment area.</p> <p>The additional capacity is required in the central area of Crewe to</p>	Parents and carers wishing to access local provision will have greater opportunity to secure places at a nearby school and therefore within a reasonable distance if the proposed increase in capacity is agreed. As an example, the number of pupils due to be admitted into the reception class for

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and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.		accommodate the increased demand for school places	2012 who are resident in the area normally served by Oakefield Primary is currently 79 compared with an admission number of 45 places. Additional capacity would therefore provide for more places in future years. A map of the local area, which shows the primary schools in this vicinity. Attached as Appendix 6.2
In deciding statutory proposals, the Decision Maker should bear in mind that proposals should not have the effect of unreasonably extending journey times or increasing transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable routes e.g. for walking, cycling etc. The EIA 2006 provides extended free transport rights for low income groups – see Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance ref 00373 2007BKT-EN at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications . Proposals should also be considered on the basis of how they will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school	4.36	See paragraph 4.35 above	If additional capacity is not created in the central area of Crewe this could mean that children are travelling across town to access the limited number of places available.

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5 FUNDING AND LAND

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
Capital – The Decision maker should be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposals will be available. Normally, this will be some form of written confirmation from the source of funding on which the promoters rely (e.g. the LA, DCSF, or LSC). In the case of an LA, this should be from an authorised person within the LA, and provide detailed information on the funding, provision of land and premises.	4.57	The building work would be funded from the Council's 2011/2012 capital programme. The Capital investment required is estimated at £741,000. Funding for the proposed scheme was approved by Cabinet at the meeting of 5 September 2011.	N/A
School Playing Fields- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 set out the standards for school premises, including minimum areas of team game playing fields to which schools should have access. The Decision Maker will need to be satisfied that either the premises will meet minimum requirements of The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999; or if the premises do not meet those requirements, the proposers have secured the Secretary of State's agreement in principle to grant a relaxation	4.65	The site was originally Church Coppenhall Junior School and amalgamated with Broad Street Infant in Jan 2007. Initially both schools continued to operate from separate sites whilst the junior school was extended to accommodate both schools. Both schools moved into one site following completion of building works in the Summer of 2008.	Although, originally developed to accommodate a one and a half form entry primary school with 315 places the school site is large enough to accommodate 420 school places and retain adequate playground and playing field provision.

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6 OTHER ISSUES

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Views of interested parties – The Decision Maker should consider the views of all those affected by the proposals or who have an interest in them including: pupils; families of pupils; staff; other schools and colleges; local residents; diocesan bodies and other providers; LAs; the LSC (where proposals affect 14-19 provision) and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership if one exists, or any local partnership or group that exists in place of an EYDCP (where proposals affect early years and/or childcare provision). This includes statutory objections and comments submitted during the representation period. The Decision Maker should not simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representations made on proposals. Instead the Decision Maker should give the greatest weight to representations from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.</p>	4.73	<p>A formal consultation process was implemented by the authority between 22 November and 20 December 2011. Full details of the feedback receive during the consultation are attached as Appendix 2.4</p> <p>The outcome of the consultation was presented to the Cabinet Member for responsibility for Children and Families Service on 22 December whereupon a decision was taken to issue a statutory public notice attached as Annex 1</p> <p>The attached Annex 3 details the responses received during the 4 week representation period, which commenced on 18 January 2012 and concluded on 15 February 2012</p>	<p>The main concerns expressed by 3 of the objectors are in relation to the anticipated increase in the volume of traffic and potential health and safety issues arising from this, the restricted access to residential property within the immediate vicinity of the school, and increased noise due to a potential increase of pupils attending the school.</p> <p>Highways have no recorded incidents of personal injury in the last 5 years. However, they are aware of concerns from local residents in the area. There have been site meetings between the school and the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who are actively involved in monitoring the situation and have been at the premises at the start and end of the school day.</p> <p>The school has also started to stagger the start times in the morning by opening the school doors and allowing parents to drop children off from 8.35 a.m. The school believe this has helped alleviate the problem but will continue to work with the residents and</p>

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			<p>the PCSO.</p> <p>The representation received from a neighbouring school expressed concern that the Local Authority was seeking to extend a school currently in special measures, querying if this was the best way to address the shortfall and asking if the process should involve the opportunity for all schools to 'tender' for additional places.</p> <p>Members are advised that the process implemented by officers involved a review of existing provision in the area and identifying schools that had a sufficient site to allow for expansion, where a cost effective enlargement could be achieved with minimum disruption to pupils and taking into account the current size of schools in the area and the preferred option of delivering primary schools as either 1 (30 per year group) or 2 (60 per year group) forms of entry as far as possible, to provide for ease of compliance with Infant Class Size Legislation that requires that no more than 30 pupils are taught by a single school teacher .</p>
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			<p>The Oakefield proposal is therefore one of four changes proposed for this area at this stage. The extent of expansion in the other three schools is small and therefore falls outside school organisation statutory procedures which must be implemented for increases of 30 pupils or more and 25% increase on the current capacity. If the proposal to enlarge Oakefield is approved, the combined increase in the number of reception class places for the area of Crewe would be 32. This would deliver an overall increase in capacity of 224 places to address basic need for this area.</p>
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