

### 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 Wheelock Primary School from 210 to 315 school places. Please refer to the DfE 'Extract of Decision Makers' Guidance' (**Annex 8**)

## 1 EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

DfE Guidance	Extracted Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>A System Shaped by Parents</b> The Government's aim as set out in the Five Year Strategy for Education and Learners and the schools White Paper Higher Standards, Better Schools for All, is to create a school system shaped by parents which delivers excellence and equity. In particular the Government wishes to see 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	Last Ofsted Inspection was June 2011 when the school was categorised as Outstanding	
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.	4.18	The Congleton Local Area Partnership (LAP) is the largest LAP in Cheshire East covering the areas of Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach. Overall the LAP consists of 32 primary schools and 7 secondary schools and the total primary school capacity across the LAP is 7191	This proposal was identified to address a Basic Need in Sandbach and in particular the village of Wheelock. 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.

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<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. The Decision Maker should take into account the extent to which the proposals are consistent with the new duties on LAs.</p>	<p>Wheelock Primary is situated in the Sandbach area of this Local Area Partnership and consists of 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. Two of these primary schools fall within the Crewe Local Area Partnership and serve the Haslington area (Haslington Primary and The Dingle Primary schools) but work more closely with the Sandbach primary schools. The total capacity across the 8 primary schools is 1915 pupil places and forecasts indicate that there will be a shortfall of 151 pupil places by 2017, across the 8 primary schools.</p> <p>The demand for places in Sandbach indicates that the schools have insufficient capacity. For September 2012 admission the Local Authority admitted over the Published Admission Number at a number of schools, including Wheelock, to ensure that local children could access a school within a reasonable distance to their home address. Although the Local Authority has taken measures to alleviate the immediate shortfall, further long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth in</p>	<p>The proposal, if determined, will provide additional school places in a local primary school. In addition, this will deliver a level of operational surplus for the Local Authority, which is a level of spare capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants. The proposal will have a significant positive impact on the current projected shortfall in school places.</p>
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		<p>the area</p> <p>Additionally the pupil census taken in January 2013, indicates that there are currently 1869 pupils attending the 8 schools providing an overall surplus of just over 2.4%. However, there is a marked difference in surplus capacity between key stage 1 and 2 with much of the surplus in the upper year groups and concentrated in a small number of schools. The overall surplus in the Key Stage 1 year groups is -1.3% whilst the overall surplus for Key Stage 2 is 6.1% indicating the pressure on places and the potential impact in future years as this growth in demand moves through the schools..</p>	
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

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<b>Diversity –</b> 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 8 primary schools in Sandbach 6 are Community Schools, including Wheelock Primary, offering a total of 1460 school places, 1 Voluntary Aided offering 175 school places and 1 Voluntary Controlled school, offering 280 places.	The proposal would increase the total number of available school places amongst the Community schools by 105 places and therefore increasing the opportunity for parental preference to be met.
<b>Every Child Matters –</b> 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,	4.24	Although the school does not Nursery on site there are a number of pre school providers in and around Sandbach that traditionally send children to Wheelock Primary. A before and after school club have use of the school hall.  <b>SEN –</b> Wheelock Primary School is a fully inclusive mainstream primary school with 231 children on roll, no school places are specifically reserved for	All current arrangements in relation to pre school providers, before and after school clubs and any extra curriculum clubs will continue should the proposed expansion go ahead.  If the proposal to expand the school is approved, the increased capacity will deliver additional places for all children, including those with special educational

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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.		pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently the school has 9 statemented children and 10 children at school action plus / school action on roll which is equivalent to an overall of 8.2% which is below the Cheshire East average of 15% and the national average of 20%	needs and thereby the impact of the proposal will have a positive impact on parents and carers seeking places for their children.
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## 2. SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>Equal Opportunity Issues –</b> 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 ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.	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>Wheelock Primary currently has a typical racial make -up which compares to the racial make-up across all Sandbach Schools.</p> <p><b>Wheelock Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97% White</li> <li>• 2% Mixed/Dual Background</li> <li>• 0.5% Asian or Asian British</li> <li>• 0.5% Other Groups or Not recorded</li> </ul>	<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 families with wider caring responsibilities for household members with a disability.</p>

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		<b>Sandbach Primary Schools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 94% White</li> <li>• 2 % Mixed/Dual Background</li> <li>• 1% Asian or Asian British</li> <li>• 0% Black or Black British</li> <li>• 3% Other Groups or Not recorded</li> </ul>	
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## 3 NEED FOR PLACES

Guidance	Paragraphs	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>Creating Additional Places –</b> 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 itself prevent the addition of new places.	4.28	Pupil forecasts for the Sandbach area indicate that there will be a significant shortfall of places across a number of the schools reaching a forecast shortfall of 151 places by 2017. In order to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking places at their local schools, additional places are needed in this area from 2013 when the number of unused places is forecast to fall to only 4 places across all schools and all year groups. If the Local Authority is to allow for the preferred level of 4% operational surplus, which is the level of spare capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants,	This scheme was identified to address a Basic Need for school places in the Sandbach area.  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.  High demand for places requires further measures; not only to ensure that there are sufficient places for local children to attend local schools within a reasonable distance, but also to ensure the Local Authority can build in operational surplus, which is a level of spare

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		<p>then the level of shortfall increases to <b>-73</b> school places.</p> <p>Wheelock Primary already has a current shortfall in its capacity, currently having 231 on roll against a capacity of 210 school places. To accommodate these additional children the local authority sited a temporary mobile on site</p> <p>Forecasts for Wheelock Primary indicate that this trend will continue . reaching a shortfall of 89 pupil places, based on current admission patterns, by 2017.</p> <p>The changing demographics of Sandbach and the demand for places at local primary schools indicate that across the 8 schools there we be insufficient capacity to accommodate local demand. The admission of additional children over the Published Admission Number in a number of schools in the Sandbach area has helped alleviate the immediate shortfall in Sandbach but additional long term measures are necessary to accommodate the anticipated increase in demand due to population growth in this area</p>	<p>capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants.</p> <p>The shortfall across these 8 primary schools, based on current intake patterns, has informed the decision to propose the expansion of Wheelock Primary to provide further accommodation in this area to meet this increasing demand due to population changes.</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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<p><b>Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools-</b></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"> <li>1. The schools performance</li> <li>2. The number of applications for places.</li> </ol>	4.31	<p>Wheelock Primary is a popular and successful and categorised as Outstanding by Ofsted.</p> <p>For the last 4 years applications have exceeded the 30 place available in the reception class and the school has failed to admit all "In Area" applicants requesting a place. For 2012 Reception admissions the Local Authority in agreement with the school admitted 46 pupils to meet the demand from families resident within the school's catchment area. The number of children resident in the schools catchment area and requesting a school place is expected to continue to rise in future years.</p>	<p>The proposal, if determined, will provide additional school places in an "outstanding" local primary school affording access to the local school for local children</p>
<p>Before approving proposals the Decision Maker <b>should</b> 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 <b>should</b> be informed that proposals with</p>	4.34	<p>Wheelock Primary School is a Community School and as such the Local Authority is the Admission Authority,</p>	N/A



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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.			
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## 4 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>Travel and Accessibility for All -</b> 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 and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.	4.35	<p>In making this recommendation the authority has given consideration to a number of issues including the increasing number of pupils resident in school catchment areas.</p> <p>At January 2011 48% of children living within the schools catchment area were on roll at the school increasing to 49% at January 2012.</p> <p>Although this percentage figure may appear low this is in part a consequence of not being able to admit all the “in area” applicants requesting a place have not being successful in recent years. When you compare the</p>	<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 2013 who are resident in the area normally served by Wheelock is currently 51 compared with an admission number of 30 places. Additional capacity would therefore provide for more places in future years.</p>

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		number of pupils on roll at the school and living within the catchment area this figure increases to 79 % in 2011 and 80% in 2012.	
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 <a href="http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications">www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications</a> . 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	See paragraph 4.35 above  A map of the local area, which shows the primary schools in the vicinity is attached as <b>Annex 10</b>

## 5 FUNDING AND LAND

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>Capital –</b> The Decision maker should be satisfied	4.57	The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital	N/A

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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.		<p>Programme for Basic Need. The Capital investment required is estimated at £1,608,758.</p> <p>Funding for the proposed scheme was approved as part of a block budget formally approved at Council on 23 February 2012.</p> <p>A virement and supplementary capital estimate was subsequently approved by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012.</p>	
<p><b>School Playing Fields-</b></p> <p>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</p>	4.65	<p>Situated in the village of Wheelock on the outskirts of Sandbach Town the school was originally developed to accommodate 5 classrooms and later extended to a one form entry primary school with 210 pupil places.</p> <p>However the site is sufficient to allow for expansion to accommodate a 4 class extension to provide a total of 315 pupil places and retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.</p>	School site is sufficient to allow for the expansion and retain adequate playground and playing field provision.

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## 6 OTHER ISSUES

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
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.	4.73	<p>A formal consultation process was implemented by the authority between 22 October 2012 and 23 November 2012. Full details of the feedback received during the consultation are attached as <b>Appendix 4</b></p> <p>The outcome of the consultation was presented to the Cabinet Member for responsibility for Children and Families Service on 3 December 2012 whereupon a decision was taken to defer the decision until 17 December 2012.</p> <p>At the Portfolio Holder meeting of 17 December the decision was deferred again for a further 2 weeks to allow for further consultation. As a consequence officers held a further meeting with headteachers of the local primary schools and arranged a “drop in” session to facilitate local feedback . which is attached as <b>Appendix 5</b></p> <p>The outcomes of the extended consultation were presented to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of 4</p>	

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		<p>February. The decision was to issue a statutory public notice attached which is attached as <b>Annex 1</b></p> <p>The 4 week representation period commenced on 22 February 2013 and concluded on 22 March 2013. Full details of the feedback received during the statutory representation period are attached as <b>Annex 4</b></p>	
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