

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date: 1 Jul 2013

Decision in the matter of: Proposed School Expansions - Wilmslow

Decision: 1. To give permission to authorise the publication of statutory notices detailing the Authority's proposed expansion of:

Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery School, Handforth - from 210 to 315 pupil places;

Dean Oaks Primary, Wilmslow - from 315 to 420 pupil places;

2. To agree, in principle, the proposed expansion of Lacey Green Primary Academy. As stated in paragraph 1.5 of the report the expansion of Lacey Green Primary Academy is subject to approval by the Secretary of State of the necessary amendment to the Academy's funding agreement.

Background: As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to commission sufficient school places for children resident in its area. The latest pupil forecasts for the Wilmslow Area indicate that there will be a shortfall of 227 pupil places across all schools in the area by 2018. To address this shortfall the local authority proposed the expansion of schools in the Wilmslow area.

Following the decision of the Cabinet Member on 22 April 2013, formal consultation on the proposed expansion of Wilmslow Grange Community Primary and Nursery, Dean Oaks Primary and Lacey Green Primary Academy was undertaken between 30 April 2013 and 4 June 2013.

During consultation feedback was invited on the Council's proposal to fund additional school places at Lacey Green Primary Academy. Whilst the Local Authority cannot propose the expansion of an Academy, it does have a strategic duty to ensure that it has sufficient

school places for children resident in its area and, in delivering this duty, it must take into account all publicly funded schools in its area, which includes Academies, when addressing any identified basic need. Basic need is defined as the excess of forecast demand for pupil places over the existing schools capacity to provide them. The expansion of Lacey Green Primary Academy is therefore subject to Secretary of State approval to amend the funding agreement. The Academy will therefore need to submit a business case to the Education Funding Agency, including outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders, to seek this approval.

Responses to the formal consultation have been summarised in the report and copies of the submissions received were made available to the Portfolio Holder. The advice of the Council’s Legal and Finance Officers has been taken into account in producing the report presented to the Portfolio Holder.

Background Documents: COVERING REPORT WILMSLOW
Appendix 1 - Wilmslow Education Partnership
Appendix 2- Wilmslow Area Consultation Document
Appendix 3 - Wilmslow Area Consultees List
Appendix 4 -Consultation Feedback Summary
Appendix 5 - Wilmslow Grange Pupil Consultation
Appendix 6 - Dean Oaks Pupil Consultation
Appendix 7 - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Approved:

Signed by
Councillor Rachel Bailey
(Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services)

Date: 1 July 2013

Advising Officer:

Signed by
Fintan Bradley
(Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance)

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date: 1 Jul 2013

Decision in the matter of: Proposed School Expansions - Macclesfield

Decision: To authorise the publication of statutory notices detailing the Local Authority's proposed expansion of:

Primary School and Nursery, Macclesfield – from 105 to 210 pupil places for completion by September 2014.

Background: As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to commission sufficient school places for children resident in its area. The proposal to expand Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery and return it to a one form of entry (210 place) primary school is to address the school's growing popularity and increasing demand for places from the school's local community

Following the decision of the Cabinet Member on 22 April 2013, formal consultation on the proposed expansion of Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery was undertaken between 30 April 2013 and 4 June 2013.

The advice of the Council's Legal and Finance Officers has been taken into account in producing the report presented to the Portfolio Holder.

Background Documents: Covering report Ash Grove 1 July 2013 (2)
Appendix 1- Ashgrove Consultation Document
Appendix 2 - Ashgrove Consultation Response Form
Appendix 3 - Ash Grove Consultees List
Appendix 4 - Macclesfield Schools Partnership Meeting
Appendix 5 - Consultation Feedback Summary
Appendix 6 - Equality Impact Assessment

Approved:

Signed by
Councillor Rachel Bailey
(Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services)

Date: 1 July 2013

Advising Officer:

Signed by
Fintan Bradley
(Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance)

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date: 1 Jul 2013

Decision in the matter of: Woodcocks Well CE Controlled School - Change of Status

Decision: To approve without modification the proposal from the Governing Body of Woodcock's Well CE Controlled Primary School that it become Church of England Aided with effect from 1 September 2013, and to authorise Officers to take the actions required for implementation as required in the regulations.

Background: The Governing Body proposal has met the relevant procedural legal requirements in the regulations in framing and publishing their proposals, and in making the notifications and undertaking the consultations required, and has the full support of the Diocese of Chester, who have advised and supported them. Feedback from staff, parents and the local church and community has been supportive, and of 19 questionnaires returned to governors, 18 supported the conversion to Aided status, with one respondent "not sure".

There is no evident objective basis for rejecting the request, or seeking any modification or imposing any condition on approval. The regulations allow for these only on certain limited criteria e.g. requirement for planning permissions, a new site, or building project, none of which apply in this case. Further the school, as required, has demonstrated it has made additional financial budgetary provision to be able to meet the necessary 10% contribution to building maintenance or any capital programme, although it is acknowledged this is an on-going challenge and concern for all, or almost all, Aided schools in England.

Background Documents: Woodcocks-Final report (3)

Approved:

Signed by
Councillor Rachel Bailey
(Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services)

Date: 1 July 2013

Advising Officer:

Signed by
Fintan Bradley
(Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance)