

Information for Facilitators

Sandbach 'Drop in' Sessions 14 January 2013

Background summary

1) Proposal:

Proposed expansion from a 1 FE 210 place primary school to a 1.5 FE 315 pupil place primary school with a proposed completion date of September 2013Now April 2014 at the earliest (as process takes 12 months from progression of implementation procedures, which have not yet started). Alternative proposals could not be in place until September 2015 as the process takes approximately 26 months.

2) Process:

Permission to issue a public notice of the proposed expansion of the school has been delayed to allow further consultation and a further meeting with local schools on alternative solutions. The feedback from local schools and this meeting will be presented to the Cabinet Member (Cllr Rachel Bailey) at the next Cabinet Member meeting of 4th February.

3) Rationale for the Wheelock proposal

To provide sufficient school places for local children – informed by demand from within the school's catchment area, which far exceeds the 30 places available in the reception class:

- The number of pupils in the catchment area has been growing Since 2009 reaching 61 for 2012;
- Demand for places from local residents steadily rising;
- Number of first preferences consistently exceeding the 30 places available with 44 first preferences for 2012 and 50 for 2013.
- Outstanding Ofsted category June 2011
- School site is sufficient to allow for expansion to accommodate a 4 class extension and retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

4) An alternative proposal for the expansion of Offley Primary from 315 pupil places to 420 places (+105) has been suggested. This would deliver the same number of new pupil places as the Wheelock proposal (+105 across all year groups by 2018). This is a more cost effective solution due to the opportunity to utilise some existing accommodation by remodelling internally, but unlike Wheelock, would facilitate more admissions from outside the school's

catchment area; for Wheelock, the proposal would mean that more parents of children resident in the school's catchment area would be able to secure places for their children. (see slide 10)

Questions for Attendees

- 1) What is your 'relationship' to schools in the area?

Relationship	✓	School	Catchment Area
Parent/carer of current pupil/s			
Parent/carer of former pupil/s			
Parent/carer of future pupil/s			
Representative/employee of a school			
Local resident			
Other (please state)			

- 2) Are you familiar with the proposal to increase Wheelock from 210 pupil places to 315 places (+105) and the rationale for this proposal?
- 3) What is your view about this proposal?
- 4) Do you agree that the additional capacity needed due to population changes should be provided in the catchment area school, if possible?
- 5) Do you agree that the Local Authority, in its role as strategic commissioner of school places, should seek to optimise parental choice by providing more places in oversubscribed (popular) schools?
- 6) When increasing the number of pupil places in an area, there is always a risk that this will prompt some applications for mid-year movement, i.e. from one local school to another. Do you have a view about this?

- 7) Is there anything further that you wish to discuss or comment on?