

### 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 Pebble Brook Primary School from 210 to 315 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
<p><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.</p>	4.17	Last Ofsted Inspection was May 2010 when the school was categorised as Good	
<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</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. Currently the total primary school capacity across this area is 6992 pupil places.</p> <p>The 14 primary schools located in the Crewe town area of this Local Area</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>Crewe is under pressure in the lower aged year groups and therefore primary</p>

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<p>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>		<p>Partnership, which includes Pebble Brook Primary, currently provide 4936 pupil places increasing to 5185 from September 2013.</p> <p>It is in this area where demand for places has increased significantly. Forecasts using January 2012 school census data indicated that across the area as a whole there will be a shortfall of 416 pupil places by 2017.</p> <p>Additionally the pupil census taken in October 2012, indicates that there are currently 4809 pupils attending the 14 town schools providing an overall surplus of just over 2.6%. However, much of this surplus is in the upper year groups and concentrated in a small number of schools, whilst the overall surplus in the Key Stage 1 year groups is at <b>-3.9%</b>.</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</p>	<p>schools with the potential to expand have been identified to provide the much needed additional capacity.</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 in Crewe</p>
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		same period.	
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
<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	4.23	Of the 14 primary schools in the Crewe Town consisting 12 are Community Schools offering a total of school places 4166, 1 Voluntary Aided offering 560	The proposal would increase the total number of available school places in a Foundation school by 105 and therefore increasing the opportunity for parental

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<p>the expansion of the school will meet the aspirations of parents, help raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.</p>		<p>school places and Pebble Brook is Foundation currently offering 210 places.</p>	<p>preference to be met.</p>
<p><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, 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.</p>	<p>4.24</p>	<p>The school does not Nursery but there is a Children’s centre on site which offers facilities from babies to Pre school aged children.</p> <p>The school operates a before and after child care facilities between the hours of 8.00 – 8.55 am and 3.15-6.00 pm. In addition they provide a number of after school clubs. The number and type of extra curriculum activities on offer include Knitting, Crafts Dance, and Sports which are operated by an external provider.</p> <p><b>SEN –</b> Pebble Brook Primary School is a fully inclusive mainstream primary school with 217 children on roll, no school places are specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently the school has 3 statemented children and 44 children at school action plus on roll which is equivalent to an overall of 21.6% which</p>	<p>The before and after school child care facilities and the after school clubs will continue should the proposed expansion go ahead.</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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		is above the Cheshire East average of 15% and the national average of 20%	
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### SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p><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.</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>Pebble Brook currently has a typical racial make -up which compares to the racial make-up across all Crewe wards.</p> <p><b>Pebble Brook Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87% White</li> <li>• 3% Mixed/Dual Background</li> <li>• 3% Asian or Asian British</li> <li>• 3% Black or Black British</li> <li>• 4% Other Groups or Not recorded</li> </ul> <p><b>All Crewe Wards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92% White</li> <li>• 3% Mixed/Dual Background</li> <li>• 2% Asian or Asian British</li> <li>• 1% Black or Black British</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 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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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2% Other Groups or Not recorded</li> </ul>	
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### 3 NEED FOR PLACES

Guidance	Paragraphs	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p><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.</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. Currently the total primary school capacity across this area is 6992 pupil places.</p> <p>The 14 primary schools located in the Crewe town area of this Local Area Partnership, which includes Pebble Brook Primary, currently provide 4936 pupil places increasing to 5185 from September 2013 due to the expansion measures already implemented by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The 14 Crewe town primary schools currently provide a total of 708 reception places. However, for Reception 2012 pupils the Authority faced a shortfall. The Pupil Census undertaken in October 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>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 capacity intended to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants.</p>

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	<p>that across the 14 primary schools there are currently 773 pupils in Reception and 10 of the 14 schools have admitted above their published admission number (PAN) to accommodate these additional pupils.</p> <p>During the academic year 2011-2012, the Local Authority agreed the expansion of Oakefield Primary and Nursery School from 315 to 420 pupil places with effect from September 2013 thus providing an additional 105 pupil places for the Crewe area. Other changes introduced for Crewe included increased intakes to Beechwood Primary from 280 places to 315 (additional 35 pupil places); Monks Coppenhall from 360 places to 420 (additional 60 pupil places) and Brierley Primary from 161 places to 210 (additional 49 pupil places) with a total additional capacity agreed for this area of 249 pupil places.</p> <p>However, forecasts using January 2012 school census data indicated that across the area as a whole there would be a continuing shortfall of places resulting in a shortfall of 416 school places by 2017. The additional numbers</p>	<p>The remaining shortfall across these 14 primary schools based on current intake patterns has informed the decision to propose the expansion of Pebble Brook Primary to provide further accommodation in this area of the Crewe Local Area Partnership 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>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>The Pebble Brook proposal is a further expansion proposed for this area increase the number of reception class places by 15, and delivering an overall capacity (all year groups) of 105 places to address basic need for this area.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to identify further expansion opportunity.</p>	
<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</p>	4.31	<p>The school is popular and successful and categorised as Good by Ofsted.</p> <p>For the last 4 years applications have exceeded the 30 place available in the reception class. For 2011 the Local Authority in agreement with the school admitted 40 pupils to meet the demand from families resident in the school's catchment area; for 2012 45 pupils were admitted on the same basis. Given the increasing live births in the Crewe area this is expected to continue to rise in future years.</p>	



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<p>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>			
<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 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.</p>	4.34	<p>Pebble Brook Primary School is a Foundation School and the Governing Body is the Admission Authority.</p> <p>For September 2013 admissions the school are following the same Admission Arrangements and over subscription criteria as Cheshire East Council community and voluntary controlled schools. is the admissions authority.</p>	N/A

#### 4 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<b>Travel and Accessibility for All -</b>	4.35	In making this recommendation the	Parents and carers wishing to access

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<p>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.</p>		<p>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 accommodate the increased demand for school places</p>	<p>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 Pebble Brook is currently 94 compared with an admission number of 30 places. Additional capacity would therefore provide for more places in future years.</p> <p>A map of the local area, which shows the primary schools in this vicinity. Attached as <b>Annex 6</b></p>
<p>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>.</p>	4.36	See paragraph 4.35 above	<p>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.</p>

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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			
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#### 5 FUNDING AND LAND

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p><b>Capital –</b> 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.</p>	4.57	<p>The building work would be funded from the Council's 2012/2013 Capital Programme for Basic Need. The Capital investment required is estimated at £1,105,000.</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 (for the proposed permanent extension) was subsequently approved by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012.</p>	N/A
<p><b>School Playing Fields-</b> 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</p>	4.65	The school was established in 1988 following the amalgamation of Bedford Street Infants and Pebble Brook Junior School. Originally developed to accommodate a one and a half form of entry primary school with 315 pupil places, following a decline in the need	The site remains sufficient to expand to accommodate 315 pupil places retaining adequate playground and playing field provision.

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<p>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>		<p>for places in the area the school was reduced to a one form entry school with 210 school places and a Children's Centre was established on site.</p>	
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#### 6 OTHER ISSUES

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p><b>Views of interested parties –</b> The Decision Maker <b>should</b> 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 <b>should not</b> simply take account of the numbers of people expressing a particular view when considering representations</p>	<p>4.73</p>	<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 issue a statutory public notice attached as <b>Annex 1</b></p> <p>The 4 week representation period commenced on 20 December 2012 and concluded on 17 January 2013. At the time of writing this report no</p>	<p>The main comments received during consultation were in relation to the need to review the current capacity at the Catholic primary school serving this area in response to changing demographics in the town and increasing demand for faith education. Cabinet Members are advised that further analysis is already underway to address the significant increase in demand for primary school places in the Crewe area and included in this analysis is the need to ensure that there are sufficient places for families seeking a faith education to ensure diversity of provision in response to local demand.</p>

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<p>made on proposals. Instead the Decision Maker <b>should</b> give the greatest weight to representations from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by the proposals.</p>		<p>representations had been received but it should be noted that the closing date had not yet passed. If any representations are received they will be reported orally at the meeting and a further annex will be added if necessary.</p>	
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