

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 Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery from 105 to 210 school places. Please refer to the DfE ‘Extract of Decision Makers’ Guidance’ (**Annex 6**)

1 EFFECT ON STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

DfE Guidance	Extracted Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>A System Shaped by Parents 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>	<p>4.17</p>	<p>Last Ofsted Inspection was February 2013 when the school was categorised as Outstanding</p>	<p>The local authority has no reason to believe that any proposed expansion of schools would result in an overall change to the Ofsted category in the future.</p>
<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>	<p>4.18</p>	<p>Ash Grove school is part of the Macclesfield Local Area Partnership which consists of 19 primary schools offering 4947 places.</p> <p>Due to the number of schools and the size of Macclesfield the town and surrounding area is divided into 2 planning areas, North and South. Ash Grove is situated in the South planning</p>	<p>This proposal was identified to address sufficient school places for residents within the schools catchment area.</p> <p>The proposal to expand the school 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, providing</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>area consisting of 9 primary schools offering 2240 school places.</p> <p>Originally operating as a 1.5 form of entry primary school, Ash Grove had an intake at the normal point of entry of 47 pupils up until 2005. It was subsequently reduced to a 25 intake following a review of school places undertaken by the former Cheshire County Council. A further reduction in the admission number was made in 2011 taking the school to an intake of only 15 places for admission at the normal point of entry to the school (reception class) and operating as a half form of entry primary school with an overall capacity of 105 pupil places.</p> <p>To facilitate this reduction in capacity, classrooms were converted for alternative use by the school and a temporary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was located at the school, which has since been relocated. The Local Authority is proposing to reintroduce the classrooms and increase the pupil places from 105 to 210 (one form of entry) with an intake of 30 pupils into the reception class from 2014.</p>	<p>school places within a reasonable distance to their home address.</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 9 primary schools in the Macclesfield South planning area 5 are Community Schools, including Ash Grove Primary, offering a total of 1243 school places, 1 is and Academy offering 420 places and 3 are Voluntary Aided offering 577 school 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.

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<p>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.</p>	4.24	<p>The school has a Nursery on site offering 52 places. Children are offered the statutory free sessions as appropriate and parents can pay for additional sessions dependent on availability. In addition to the nursery the school operates a breakfast club and after school club until 5.30 pm. A variety of extra curriculum clubs operate during lunch time and after school including, football, netball and cookery.</p> <p>SEN – Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery Primary School is a fully inclusive mainstream primary school with 159 children on roll, no school places are specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently the school has 7 statemented children and 40 children at school action plus / school action on roll which is equivalent to an overall of 30% which is twice the Cheshire East average of 15% and above the national average of 20%</p>	<p>All current arrangements in relation to the Nursery, breakfast and after school clubs and extra curriculum 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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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 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 this respect.</p> <p>The recorded data for Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92% White • 4% Mixed/Dual Background • 3% Asian or Asian British • 1% Black or Black British <p>The average recorded data across the immediate neighbouring Macclesfield primary schools is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.9% White • 2% Mixed/Dual Background • 4.4% Asian or Asian British • 0.2% Black or Black British • 1.5% Other Groups or Not recorded 	<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> <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>

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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 itself prevent the addition of new places.</p>	4.28	<p>The number of children resident within the school’s catchment area has increased in recent years and, for the last 3 years, the number of first preferences for the school has exceeded the 15 places available in the reception class.</p> <p>In order to accommodate children resident in the school’s catchment area for whom there was no other schools with vacancies within a reasonable distance, the Local Authority, in agreement with the school, agreed additional places over the school’s published admission number for September 2011 and 2012 and has agreed admission of up to 30 children for 2013.</p>	<p>This proposal, which is fully supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, is made to address the pattern of parental preference in recent years and to provide sufficient places for the local community at a school within a reasonable distance. The benefit to the school and the local community is that it will be able to provide more places for families who seek admission at the normal point of entry to the school whilst continuing to provide an outstanding education as a 1 form of entry primary school.</p>
<p>Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools- 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</p>	4.31	<p>The school is popular and successful and categorised as Outstanding by Ofsted.</p> <p>The proposal to expand Ash Grove primary and Nursery and return it to a one form of entry (210 place) primary school is to address the school’s growing popularity and increasing</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>

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<p>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. 		<p>demand for places from the school's local community.</p> <p>The number of children resident within the school's catchment area has increased in recent years and, for the last 3 years, the number of first preferences for the school has exceeded the 15 places available in the reception class as shown in the following tables:</p>	
<p>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.</p>	4.34	<p>Ash Grove Primary School & Nursery is a Community School and as such the Local Authority is the Admission Authority,</p>	N/A

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4 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>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 and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.</p>	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>Data shows that at January 2013 85% of children living within Ash Grove catchment area were on roll at the school. The school admitted 10% of pupils from outside of their catchment areas but within the Macclesfield LAP and 3% of children outside of Cheshire East. The remaining 2% lived within Cheshire East but outside of the Macclesfield LAP.</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.</p> <p>A map of the local area, which shows the primary schools in this vicinity. Attached as Annex 8</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</p>	4.36	See paragraph 4.35 above	.

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<p>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</p>			
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5 FUNDING AND LAND

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>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.</p>	4.57	The proposed expansion of Ash Grove Primary School and Nursery is cost neutral due to the utilisation of existing classrooms.	N/A
<p>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</p>	4.65	N/a	

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<p>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>			
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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</p>	<p>4.73</p>	<p>A formal consultation process was implemented by the authority between 30 April 2013 and 4 June 2013. Full details of the feedback received during the consultation are attached as Appendix 4</p> <p>The outcomes of the consultation were presented to the Portfolio Holder at the meeting of 1 July 2013. The decision was to issue a statutory public notice attached which is attached as Annex 1</p> <p>The 4 week representation period commenced on 17 July 2013 and concluded on 14 August 2013. Full details of the feedback received during</p>	

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<p>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>		<p>the statutory representation period are attached as Annex 4</p>	
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