

Additional Information for Members – Factors to be Considered by Decision Makers

Using relevant extracts from Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Guidance - 'School Organisation Maintained Schools- Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers

The information presented below is intended to assist Members in their decision-making on the proposals to expand Mobberley CE Primary from 140 to 210 school places (1FE) for implementation January 2014. Please refer to (Annex B: Guidance for Decision – Makers)(**Appendix 12**)

1 CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION AND REPRESENTATION PERIOD

DfE Guidance	Extracted Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>The decision-maker will need to be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and/or representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has had regard to the responses received. If the proposer has failed to meet the statutory requirements, a proposal may be deemed invalid and therefore should be rejected. The decision-maker must consider all the views submitted, including all support for, objections to and comments on the proposal.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Informal consultation meetings with headteachers of the primary schools in this planning area were held on 31 October 2012, 20 December 2012, 10 May 2013 and 8 October 2013.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Portfolio Holder on 27 January approval was given to commence formal consultation . Consultation commenced on 4 February 2014 and ended on 11 March 2014. Key stakeholders including Ward Members, George Osborne MP, the Diocese, Parish Councils and neighbouring local authorities were invited to offer feedback. Information and letters, for distribution to all their parents and carers, were emailed to all schools in the Knutsford Planning Area. A report detailing the outcome of the formal consultation was presented to the Portfolio Holder on 31 March 2014 whereupon permission was given to</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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		<p>issue a statutory notice.</p> <p>Public Notices were issued in the local press on 16 April and the statutory four-week representation period that followed commenced on 16 April and concluded on 14 May 2014. Information regarding the representation period was notified to all key stakeholders and schools in the Knutsford Planning Area were issued with letters for distribution to all their parents and carers.</p> <p>As required in the guidance issued by Department for Education copies of the statutory notice were displayed on the school gates at Mobberley CE.</p>	
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2. EDUCATION STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY OF PROVISION

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the aspirations of parents, raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps</p> <p>The decision-maker should also take into account the extent to which the proposal is consistent with the government's policy on academies as</p>	11 & 12	<p>The last OFSTED inspection for Mobberley CE was June 2012 when the school was categorised as Outstanding.</p> <p>Of the 7 primary schools in Knutsford 4 are Community Schools offering a total of 987 school places, 1 is Voluntary Aided offering 210 places, and 2 are Voluntary Controlled (including Mobberley CE) offering a total of 245</p>	<p>The local authority has no reason to believe that the proposed expansion of either school would result in an overall change to the Ofsted categories in the future.</p> <p>This proposal would increase the total number of available school places amongst the Voluntary Controlled</p>

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set out on the department's website.		places.	schools by 70 places and increase the opportunity for parental preferences to be met.
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3 DEMAND

Guidance	Paragraphs	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>In assessing the demand for new school places the decision-maker should consider the evidence presented for any projected increase in pupil population (such as planned housing developments) and any new provision opening in the area (including free schools).</p> <p>The decision-maker should take into account the quality and popularity of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for a new school or for places in a school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools should not in itself prevent the addition of new places.</p> <p>Reducing surplus places is not a priority (unless running at very high levels). For parental choice to work effectively there may be some surplus capacity in the</p>	13 - 15	<p>Based on the latest data (October 2012 School Census), pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Local Area Partnership (LAP) indicate a shortfall of 174 places across all 10 primary schools by 2018. This forecast shortfall does not allow for any 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.</p> <p>For school place planning purposes LAPs are broken down into smaller Planning Areas. These planning areas are based on a number of considerations including schools proximity, pattern of parental preferences, feeder schools to high schools and traditional links between the schools themselves.</p>	<p>The scheme was identified to address a Basic Need for school places in the Knutsford area.</p> <p>The proposed expansion is intended to contribute 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 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 a level of operational surplus, to accommodate reasonable journey times to school, some degree of parental choice, and flexibility to allow for mid-year entrants.</p> <p>This proposal is one of two possible</p>

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<p>system as a whole. Competition from additional schools and places in the system will lead to pressure on existing schools to improve standards.</p>		<p>Mobberley CE Primary is part of the Knutsford Planning Area which consists of 7 primary schools offering a total of 1442 school places. Based on the October 2012 School Census, pupil forecasts for the Knutsford Planning Area indicate that there will be a significant shortfall of places across the 7 schools of 166 places by 2018.</p> <p>Updated forecasts have since been produced (May 2014) based on October 2013 School Census information. These forecasts take into account the reception intakes in September 2013 and anticipated reception intakes for September 2014. These latest forecasts indicate that over all year groups, the anticipated shortfall will commence in September 2015 and not 2014 as previously forecast. However, the pressure on primary school places in this area remains a concern with the latest forecasts indicating demand for an additional 100 pupil places for 2018.</p> <p>There is an increasing demand in the Knutsford area at the normal point of entry to school (i.e. into the reception class) which is impacting on parental preference and the Authority's ability to</p>	<p>expansions proposed for the Knutsford area which, if approved, would provide a total of 175 additional pupil places. The additional accommodation planned for Mobberley CE would be mainly phased in at the normal point of entry to the school, which is the reception class. On this basis, the school would be operating as a 1form of entry primary school (210 places) with 30 pupil places per year group by 2021. This would increase capacity for this planning area to 1547 pupil places which; when phased in at the normal point of entry into the reception class, would still require an additional 61 places by the same period based on current forecasts. Consultation on a separate proposal to provide an additional 105 pupil places at Manor Park School and Nursery to meet this shortfall has been undertaken.</p> <p>It is important to note that additional housing in the area may 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</p>
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		<p>comply with its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for its residents.</p> <p>For Reception 2014 the authority received a total of 228 first preferences for the 7 primary schools within Knutsford Planning Area for a combined total of only 206 places. To ensure that parents were offered a school place within a reasonable distance to their home address the authority, in agreement with Mobberley CE , admitted 30 children against a Published Admission Number of 20. It is expected that this increase in demand will continue in the coming years with the potential admission pool 250 for 2015</p>	<p>application process.</p>
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4 SCHOOL SIZE

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
Decision-makers should not make blanket assumptions that schools should be of a certain size to be good schools, although the viability and cost-effectiveness of a proposal is an important factor for consideration. The decision-maker should also consider the impact on the LA's budget of the need to	16	Mobberley CE Primary currently operates over 5 closed classrooms, 2 practical areas, hall, staffroom and admin area including the headteachers office.	The proposed expansion will provide a double mobile allowing the school to operate over the required 7 classrooms to become a 1FE school.

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provide additional funding to a small school to compensate for its size			
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5 PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGMENTS

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>In assessing demand the decision-maker should consider all expected admission applications, not only those from the area of the LA in which the school is situated.</p> <p>Before approving a proposal that is likely to affect admissions to the school the decision-maker should confirm that the admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code. Although the decision-maker cannot modify proposed admission arrangements, the decision-maker should inform the proposer where arrangements seem unsatisfactory and the admission authority should be given the opportunity to revise them.</p>	17 & 18	<p>Mobberley CE is a Voluntary Controlled school and as such the Local Authority is the Admission Authority,</p> <p>The authority has determined its admission arrangements for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 and they are compliant with the School Admission Code.</p>	N/A

6 NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
All maintained schools must follow the	19	The new National Curriculum for	The authority's Monitoring &

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<p>National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community.</p>		<p>primary schools comes on line in September 2014. The Government states that this will give schools greater freedoms. The DfE are setting out 'what' has to be taught not 'how' it is to be taught. Individual schools are expected to determine the most appropriate curriculum design and the most effective style of teaching to ensure that the needs of the pupils are met. There are on-line resources available from the National College to support schools plan the curriculum changes. The new curriculum makes further demands of teachers' subject knowledge.</p> <p>Mobberley CE has previously followed the National Curriculum and has not secured an exemption for groups of pupils or for the school community and has not requested an exemption for this September.</p>	<p>Intervention Manager, believes that the expansion of Offley primary will not have an adverse impact on the delivery of the new National Curriculum.</p>
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7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ISSUES

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>The decision-maker must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/governing bodies, which requires</p>	<p>20 & 21</p>	<p>The local authority is bound by the Admissions Code and regulations which do not allow for any discrimination in</p>	<p>The local authority has no reason to believe that any proposed expansion of the school would result in an overall</p>

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<p>them to have ‘due regard’ to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> eliminate discrimination; <input type="checkbox"/> advance equality of opportunity; and <input type="checkbox"/> foster good relations. <p>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 should 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>		<p>respect of sex, race or disability.</p> <p>Based on the October 2012 School Census data</p> <p>The recorded data for Mobberley CE is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96.4% White • 2.1% Mixed/Dual Background • 0% Asian or Asian British • 0% Black or Black British • 1.5% Other Groups or Not recorded <p>The average recorded data across the Knustford primary schools is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% White • 3% Mixed/Dual Background • 3% Asian or Asian British • 1% Black or Black British • 2% Other Groups or Not recorded <p>SEN – The school is a fully inclusive mainstream primary school with 150 children on roll and no school places are specifically reserved for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Currently the school has 3 statemented children and 22 children at school action plus / school action on roll</p>	<p>change to the current demographics.</p> <p>All applications will continue to be considered against the over subscription criteria on an equal basis without reference to sex, race or the status of the parent/carer</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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		<p>which is equivalent to an overall of 17 % which is above the Cheshire East average of 15% but below the national average of 20% (data as at 6 May 2014)</p>	
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8 COMMUNITY COHESION

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from and about each other; by encouraging, through their teaching, an understanding of, and respect for, other cultures, faiths and communities. When considering a proposal, the decision-maker must consider its impact on community cohesion. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the community served by the school and the views of different sections within the community.</p>	22	<p>Although the school does not operate a Nursery on site there are a number of pre school providers in and around the village that traditionally send children to Mobberley CE.</p> <p>In addition there are a number of childminders known to the school who run breakfast clubs from home and transport pupils to school. An independent provider operates a thriving after school club in the school hall between the hours of 3.25 and 6.00 pm.</p> <p>The school operates a number of clubs operate between the hours of 8.00 and 8.45 am, and these have included Fencing, Karate, Street Dance and Cheerleading.</p>	<p>All current arrangements in relation to pre school providers, before and after school clubs and extra curriculum clubs will continue should the proposed expansion go ahead.</p>

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		<p>The number and type of extra curriculum activities on offer during the lunch time and after school include, Netball, Games Skills, Football Skills (Wilmslow Football Academy), Film Club Sewing Club and Cookery Club, I-Pad Club and Story Telling.</p> <p>The variety of extra curriculum clubs on offer at lunch and after school varies from term to term to school but the school are always keen to extend the list and offer new experiences to the children.</p>	
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9 TRAVEL AND ACCESSIBILITY

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase</p>	23 - 25	<p>In making this recommendation the authority has given consideration to a number of issues including the number of pupils in school catchment areas. In 2004, Ashley Primary school closed and children on roll at the time of closure were transferred to Mobberley CE Primary and the catchment area for Mobberley was extended to include the area previously zoned to</p>	<p>It is considered that the proposal would have a positive impact on the children/ young people in the village of Mobberley CE as the proposal, if agreed, would provide additional places for the local children to attend their local school.</p> <p>During the consultation concerns had been raised regarding the road</p>

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<p>transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.</p> <p>A proposal should also be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.</p>		<p>Ashley Primary School.</p> <p>Based on January 2012 School Census data 69% of children living within the schools catchment area were on roll at the school. This percentage increased to 77% at January 2013 due to the increase in the number of children resident within the area seeking places in the reception class.</p> <p>If local children were unable to access their local school the distance to other nearby schools will seem unreasonable to local families and many would qualify for transport assistance being over the statutory walking distance of 2 miles.</p>	<p>network being inadequate and unable to cope with an increased volume of traffic, and issues surrounding road safety and parking.</p>
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10 CAPITAL

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>The decision-maker should be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees or religious authority) have given their agreement. A</p>	<p>26 & 27</p>	<p>The total approved Capital budget for the Mobberley CE Primary School Scheme was originally allocated to the project from the 2012-13 Children and Families Capital Programme. The purchase of Mode Cottage, which</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>proposal cannot be approved conditionally upon funding being made available.</p> <p>Where proposers are relying on the department as the source of capital funding, there can be no assumption that the approval of a proposal will trigger the release of capital funds from the department, unless the department has previously confirmed in writing that such resources will be available; nor can any allocation 'in principle' be increased. In such circumstances the proposal should be rejected, or consideration deferred until it is clear that the capital necessary to implement the proposal will be provided.</p>		<p>completed on the 14 March 2014, was met from the existing approved budget. Further budget required to complete the capital scheme over and above this budget will be funded by Basic Need Grant funding, approval for which will be in accordance with the Cheshire East Council's Constitution - Finance and Contract Procedure Rules</p> <p>All Capital projects greater than £250,000 are subject to Cheshire East Council's Project Gateway process, which seeks endorsement by way of review and challenge. Full endorsement was granted on the 18 March 2014.</p>	
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11 SCHOOL PREMISES AND PLAYING FIELDS

Guidance	Paragraph/s	Current Position	Impact of Expansion
<p>Under the School Premises Regulations all schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play</p>	<p>28 & 29</p>	<p>Building Bulletin 103 provides area guidelines for mainstream schools. It recommends that a 1FE primary school has a minimum site area of 9,366sqm and a 1.5FE primary school has a minimum site area of 12,999sqm and a 2FE primary school has a minimum site</p>	<p>The provision of a mobile on the site has already received planning consent subject to a number of conditions.</p>

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<p>outside safely.</p> <p>Guidelines setting out suggested areas for pitches and games courts are in place although the department has been clear that these are non-statutory.</p>		<p>area of 16,632sqm.</p> <p>Following the purchase of the adjacent land and cottage the total site area for Mobberley CE is 10,038 sq meters. Therefore the site is large enough to allow for the expansion and provision of the additional classrooms.</p> <p>Section 77 of the School Standard and Framework Act 1998 is a statutory requirement which applies in the event that there is a net loss of playing field. e.g if a new build is located onto land which for the purpose of S77 is classed as playing field.</p> <p>Section 77 consent is not required for Mobberley CE as the build will not take place on existing playing fields.</p>	
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