

Cheshire East Council

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

Date of Meeting: 24 January 2017

Report of: Kath O'Dwyer, Executive Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive

Subject/Title: Disley Primary School - proposed school expansion

Portfolio Holder: Children and Families Cllr Liz Durham

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. As the Strategic Commissioner of School Places, Cheshire East Council has a statutory duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places for children resident in its area. An analysis of the latest pupil forecasts identified the need to provide additional primary school places in Disley in response to increasing pupil populations. The data analysis indicates the need for an extra 70 school places (Reception to Year 6) which, if agreed, would provide 10 more reception class places in this area.
- 1.2. The proposed expansion to increase the intake from 30 to 40 pupils (not 45 which is a more typical delivery model) is deliberate in that this increase allows for a phased expansion programme based upon a class organisation/curriculum delivery model that best suits the school and therefore learners. The school can further increase to 45 depending upon need and any future increases would not require additional building or capital expenditure.
- 1.3. This paper reports on the outcome of required consultation, which took place between 14 September and 12 October 2016 and requests approval to issue a public notice of the proposed expansion of Disley Primary School from 210 to 280 pupil places with a planned implementation date of September 2017.
- 1.4. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school are fully supportive of the proposed increase and have confirmed their continued commitment to support their growing local community. The school is seen as an integral part of the local community with village events often held on school premises, such as baby and toddler; post natal groups; jujitsu; slimming and aerobic classes.
- 1.5. The rationale for the proposed expansion of Disley Primary School is set out within the consultation document attached as Appendix 1.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families authorises the publication of a statutory public notice detailing the Local Authority's proposed expansion of Disley Primary School from 210 to 280 pupil places for implementation in September 2017.
- 2.2 That the proposed expansion is progressed through a phased programme as from September 2017 with an initial phase being to complete the necessary changes to car parking and complete the building of an additional classroom. Phase 2 will follow, following structured dialogue with the school regarding the ongoing arrangements for the current on-site Disley Under 5's Pre-School.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1 As Disley is the only school within this planning area, the options to consider other schools as an alternative to Disley does not exist. The requirement is for the Authority to provide sufficiency of places to meet local demand.

4 Reasons For Recommendations

- 4.1 This recommendation is made on the basis of the outcomes of the consultation exercise and whilst consultation is no longer statutory, there is a strong expectation on Local Authorities to consult with interested parties in developing their proposals as part of their duty under public law to act rationally and take into account all relevant considerations
- 4.2 The manner in which consultation is carried out is not prescribed in regulations and it is therefore for the proposer to determine. On this occasion the consultation period spanned 4 weeks from 14 September to 12 October 2016 and a detailed list of stakeholders were invited to offer feedback to the proposal.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1 Disley Primary School is a Cheshire East community school rated “Good” by Ofsted at the last inspection in November 2011. Until 2008 Disley Primary had a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 45 children per year group and accommodated 315 pupils. The school was reduced to 30 PAN, 210 pupils, under Cheshire County Council’s Transforming Learning Communities (TLC) initiative. Until more recently, this school has been able to accommodate the children of Disley but increasing demand means that changes are needed and therefore this proposal would increase the school back to nearer its former capacity
- 5.2 If some Disley children cannot attend Disley Primary School in the future, consideration will have to be given to where local children could attend. The next nearest alternative Cheshire East schools for pupils to attend are over 4 miles.
- 5.3 During the consultation period 25 responses were received in total, as set out in the table below:

Expansion Proposal	Responses			
	Support	Do Not Support	No View	Total Respondents
Disley Primary School	21	3	1	25

- 5.4 The 25 respondents were made up of key stakeholders as follows:

Parish Council	Parent/ Carer	Local Residents	Neighbouring Schools	Total
1	13	8	3	25

- 5.5 Of the 21 responses supporting the proposal (84%), a strong view was expressed that the expansion was the right decision for the school, good for the children and the development of the community as a whole. Whilst many supported the expansion and agreed with the need for additional places, concerns were raised regarding the road network being inadequate and unable to cope with an increased volume of traffic, and issues surrounding road safety and parking.
- 5.6 The rural location of the school makes the concerns relating to local road infrastructure difficult to address. However, in order to mitigate the impact on parking on the school site, the proposed site developments resulting from this expansion include a re-structure and expansion of car parking facilities.
- 5.7 There have been 3 responses opposing the proposed expansion, and 1 no view. The opposition responses were from stakeholders outside Cheshire East. Concerns expressed included the impact on pupil numbers in neighbouring local authorities schools, the introduction of mixed aged teaching, numbers of children in some classes, the lack of playground and cafeteria space and the loss of the IT Suite. In response to these concerns, mixed age teaching already exists within the school and the arrangements for lunch facilities and IT delivery will be considered as part of the second phase.
- 5.8 In addition the school have discussed the proposed expansion with the School Council and although the meeting was held just outside of the consultation period the following feedback was received from the pupils.
- *Collectively, they currently feel there is not enough carpet space in classrooms (i.e. a space where class teaching is done)*
 - *Collectively, they think it's good to have more classrooms to fit everyone in*
 - *Collectively, they think there should be more toilets*
 - *Collectively, they think we would need more teachers if we had more classrooms*
- 5.9 Full details of the responses received during consultation are available.

6 Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

Disley -	Cllr Harold Davenport
Poynton East and Pott Shrigley -	Cllr Howard Murray
Poynton East and Pott Shrigley -	Cllr Jos Saunders
Poynton West and Adlington -	Cllr Michael Beanland
Poynton West and Adlington -	Cllr Mike Sewart
Sutton -	Cllr Hilda Gaddum

7. Implications of Recommendation

Policy Implications

- 7.1 In the event that the proposal is implemented, the Local Authority will determine an increase in the PAN from 30 to 40 pupils per year group, in line with the statutory timescales set out in the School Admissions Code (2014).

Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.2 Providing additional places at this Cheshire East primary school would ensure that local children are not displaced to other schools in Poynton at some distance away or to other schools across the border in Stockport or Derbyshire as capacity at the village

school would be sufficient to meet demand for places in this rural community. Information about the distances to the nearest schools is contained within the consultation document, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Financial Implications

Cost of Expansion:

- 7.3 The proposed expansion would be funded through Basic Need Capital Grant allocation and an anticipated a Section 106 developer contribution of £75, 000.
- 7.4 Based on a desktop analysis of works to be undertaken the estimated cost of the expansion is £450,000. If approved, it is proposed that the scheduled work would be progressed in a two phase approach in order than detailed dialogue and agreement can be reached regarding the onsite Disley Under 5's Pre-School.

School's Budget

- 7.5 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) income received by Cheshire East will only increase if any additional pupils are new to the LA, i.e. have not been included in the DSG allocation previously. The DSG delegated to individual schools is based on the funding formula used in Cheshire East and currently over 80% of that funding formula is pupil led, i.e. based on the number of pupils on roll at the October Census date. This means that the number of pupils on roll in October will inform the funding formula for the following financial year. For schools admitting additional pupils from a September intake, this will therefore be reflected in the schools budget from the following April.
- 7.6 Where there is a significant number of additional pupils in year, the school may qualify for additional financial support from the Local Authority's 'Growth Fund' . However, funds are limited and have to be allocated across the Borough so there may be pressure for schools experiencing growth to manage. Therefore, this cannot be guaranteed at this stage.
- 7.7 The school has already taken measures to ensure compliance with infant class size legislation, which limits infant classes to a 30:1 pupil teacher ratio. The school is currently operating across 8 classes with two teachers teaching the reception class.
- 7.8 The proposal, based upon increasing the agreed intake into reception to 40 pupils, would ensure that the school has the 10 classrooms necessary for a planned intake of 40 pupils per year group as set out below:

Class Organisation for 280 intake

Class	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Total
1	40*							40
2		13	13					26
3		13	14					27
4		14	13					27
5				13	13			26
6				13	14			27
7				14	13			27
8						13	13	26
9						13	14	27
10						14	13	27
Total	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	280

*With 2 teachers

- 7.9 This arrangement would require a minimum of headteacher + 12.1 full time equivalent (FTE) teachers to include 10% planning, preparation and assessment time.
- 7.10 Finance officers have provided an indication of the funding implications for this option. This has demonstrated the viability of the aforementioned option. It should be noted that this is based on the current funding formula for 2016-17 and using the school's current characteristics. This assessment has compared the current funding for the school of £773,058 for 2016-17, which is based on 215 pupils on roll in October 2015 and provides for a headteacher + 9.8 FTE.
- 7.11 For the school to deliver the arrangements for 280 pupils as proposed, the estimated budget available to them would be £961,443 which is an increase on the current budget of £188,385. The school would require headteacher +12.1FTE, which is an increase as a minimum of 2.3FTE.
- 7.12 The funding formula for schools and the amount available per pupil are under review nationally and the pupils in the school may attract more or less funding. Therefore, the revised budget figure is provisional until 2017/18 budget figures are available.

Legal Implications

- 7.12 The DfE statutory guidance accompanies the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that came into force on 28 January 2014. It provides information on the processes involved in making significant changes to maintained schools (e.g. expansion), establishing new provision and school closure. Key dates are outlined below :

Date	Actions
Jan 2016	Interim forecasts based on October 2015 School Census data. Indicated shortfall at Disley.
26/04/2016	Interim data presented to School Organisation Strategy Group (
29/06/2016	Departmental Management Team approve consultation on the proposal.
July 2016	Forecasts finalised and submitted to DfE via 2016 Annual Return.
13/09/2016	Meet with headteachers of neighbouring Poynton schools
14/09/2016 - 12/10/2016	Consultation period
24/01/2016	Portfolio Holder considers outcome of Consultation
5 Days	Call-in Period
TBC	Public Notice issued
TBC	4 week Representation period
TBC	Cabinet. / School Organisation Sub Committee
5 Days	Call-in Period
September 2017	Implementation of phase 1

- 7.13 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in their area. They can propose an enlargement of the premises of community, foundation and voluntary schools. When doing so they must follow the statutory process as set out in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations (2013) if:

The proposed enlargement of the premises of the school is permanent (longer than three years) and would increase the capacity of the school by:

- *more than 30 pupils; and*
- *25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).*

Equality Implications

7.14 Due to the fact that Disley is the only school within the planning area, there is no impact on other local Cheshire East schools. The expansion provides additional places for local children and has limited impact on bordering schools.

8 Risk Management

- 8.1 The proposed expansion is identified to address a Basic Need at Disley Primary School. This is in order to ensure that the Authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in this area.
- 8.2 Disley is a community school on the edge of the Cheshire East administrative boundary neighbouring Stockport and Derbyshire. Information about spare capacity and school organisation plans in these areas has therefore been considered, details of which are set out in the consultation document.
- 8.3 If additional places are not provided at Disley Primary School, parents of Cheshire East children who are resident in the school's designated catchment area may be unable to secure places at their local school and may be required to travel some distance to other Cheshire East schools requiring transport assistance, or to schools in other Local Authorities.
- 8.4 The Governing Body of Disley Primary School has confirmed that they are fully supportive of this proposed change.
- 8.5 The proposal will be subject to the necessary planning and Section 77 (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) approvals.

9 Access to Information/Bibliography

- [School Organisation \(Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [School Admissions Code \(2014\)](#)

10 Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

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