

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Lifelong Learning and Culture
2.	Date:	20th December 2011
3.	Title:	Potential Expansion of Flanderwell Primary School
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services Ward 20 Wickersley

5. Summary

Pupil numbers are increasing in the Bramley and Wickersley areas of the Authority. There is increasing pressure on school places due to the numbers of pupils and it is necessary to increase the number of school places in the area. This report seeks permission to enter a pre-statutory consultation phase for the expansion of Flanderwell Primary School.

6. Recommendation:

It is recommended that pre-statutory consultation on a proposal to expand Flanderwell Primary School is begun and that a further report be brought to Members with details of the outcome of that consultation.

7. Proposals and Details

Pupil numbers are increasing in the Bramley and Wickersley areas of the Authority. There is increasing pressure on school places due to the numbers of pupils and it is necessary to increase the number of primary school places in the area.

The proposal to be consulted on is:-

It is proposed to expand the numbers on roll at Flanderwell Primary School from September 2013. The school will be expanded in order to accommodate 45 children per statutory year group ($45 \times 7 = 315$ places) rather than its current capacity of $30 \times 7 = 210$ places. The school would have a published admission number (PAN) of 45.

The school currently accommodates 52 FS1 pupils part-time and this will not change.

Appendix 'A' gives further details on births, numbers on roll and admissions preferences.

8. Finance

The capital cost of the building project is currently estimated at £900,000. This will provide four more teaching spaces and other required spaces to be developed further in conjunction with the CYPS Capital Project Team, Architects, the school and parents. Funding for the project is from the Basic Need funding allocated to the Authority from the DFE. Basic needs funding is provided for the provision of sufficient school places.

The school will be expanded with effect from September 2013 in every year group and will operate with four more teaching spaces than it currently does. It is anticipated that parents will apply for places prior to the expansion and that numbers on roll will increase substantially from September 2013. The school will need to plan for the expansion and appoint additional teaching and non-teaching staff. Funding for the additional staffing will come from the additional pupils on roll (AWPU) and will be part of the school's annual budget. However, in the first year of operation, as the pupils will not be on roll in time for the schools budget to be allocated for 2013/14, additional funding will need to be requested from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers are based on estimations. Over provision at one school could influence pupil numbers at other schools. LA's are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

If the LA moves on to the statutory phase, then formal objections may be lodged during the representation period following the publication of the statutory notice. A final decision should be determined by the Cabinet Member within 2 months from the end of the representation period. If this fails to be done, then the matter is referred to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. It is likely that the expansion would enable more parents to access their first preference school for their child and, therefore, increase that performance indicator.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix 'A' gives full details to the background to this proposal. Consultation meetings should be undertaken with the following: The Governing Body for Flanderwell school, Staff and Trade Unions, Pupils and Parents (families), local Councillors, the Parish Council and local MP.

Additionally: Consultation meetings will also need to be undertaken with Governing bodies, teachers and other staff of any other school that may be affected plus the Diocese of any school likely to be affected. (Bramley Sunnyside Infant and Bramley Sunnyside Junior, Bramley Grange, Wickersley Northfield, Listerdale and St Albans CE Schools will need to be consulted).

If the proposal was to progress to the statutory phase then the timetable would be as shown at Appendix 'A'.

12 Contact Name

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICES

Proposal to expand Flanderwell Primary School

1 The Proposal

It is proposed to expand the numbers on roll at Flanderwell Primary School from September 2013. The school will be expanded in order to accommodate 45 children per statutory year group (45 x 7 = 315 places) rather than its current capacity of 30 x 7 = 210 places. The school would have an admission number of 45.

The school would have an admission number of 45 (rather than 30) for each statutory year group.

The school currently accommodates 52 FS1 pupils part-time and this will not change.

2 Existing Situation: Numbers on roll and Capacity

Net Capacity	=	175
Admission Number	=	30
Number on Roll (2011) (NOR)	=	195
Surplus Places	=	0 (-20)

3 Development of Numbers on Roll

YEAR	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
NOR	155	147	161	176	195	199	217	236

The school was just over its maximum capacity last year. There has been increasing pressure to accommodate more pupils in the whole of the Bramley and Wickersley area’s, particularly those born within the catchment area and a number of pupils have gained places at appeal.

The above figures for 12/13 onwards are an estimate of the likely numbers that will gain entry to the school.

The position in terms of catchment area births is as follows:

Birth figures	Admission Year							
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Flanderwell	40	54	55	67	91	96	94	74

The number of preferences for entry to Reception in the last 3 years has been as follows:

09/10 entry = 28

10/11 entry = 41

11/12 entry = 29

12/13 entry = 40

4 Potential Advantages and Disadvantages

The main potential disadvantage of expanding a school is that it may have implications on the numbers on roll at nearby schools. Notwithstanding this, the LA is obliged to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

The expansion from 30 to 45 places per year is seen as the best way forward in that it will provide the best scenario for Flanderwell school, a better scenario for local parents whilst creating a minimal threat to the viability of other local schools.

5 Financial Implications

The capital cost of the building project is currently estimated at £900,000. This will provide four more teaching spaces and other required spaces to be developed further in conjunction with the CYPs Capital Project Team, Architects, the school and parents. Funding for the project is from the Basic Need funding allocated to the Authority from the DFE. Basic needs funding is provided for the provision of sufficient school places.

The school will be expanded with effect from September 2013 in every year group and will operate with four more teaching spaces than it currently does. It is anticipated that parents will apply for places prior to the expansion and that numbers on roll will increase substantially from September 2013. The school will need to plan for the expansion and appoint additional teaching and non teaching staff. Funding for the additional staffing will come from the additional pupils on roll (awpu) and will be part of the school's annual budget. However, in the first year of operation, as the pupils will not be on roll in time for the schools budget to be allocated for 2013/14, additional funding will need to be requested from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

6 Consultation Timetable

Cabinet Member to
agree to consultation

20 December 2011

Pre statutory consultation period
Including meetings with governors,
Staff and families etc.

up to 20 January 2012

Report to the Cabinet Member	7 February 2012
Publication of statutory notices	17 February 2012
4 week period for representations and objections closes	16 March 2012
LA decision	27 March 2012
Implementation	1 September 2013