

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Lifelong Learning and Culture Cabinet Member and Advisers' Meeting</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Expansion of Thornhill Primary School</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Children and Young People's Services</b>

### 5. Summary

Proposals to expand Thornhill Primary School have stood from 7<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 including the Statutory Notice Period of 18<sup>th</sup> November – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and, in the absence of any objections, the matter can now be determined by the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture.

### 6. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) **In the absence of any formal objections, that the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture approves the proposal to expand the current admission number at Thornhill Primary School from 30 – 45 pupils per statutory year group (210 – 315 capacity) from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.**
  - 2) **That the Secretary of State for Education be informed accordingly, by the School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service.**
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## **7. Proposals and Details**

The Cabinet Member and Advisors have previously agreed to consult on the proposals as follows:

Cabinet Member to agree to consultation	7th September 2011
Pre statutory consultation period Including meetings with governors, Staff and families etc.	up to 14th October 2011
Report to the Cabinet Member	9th November 2011
Publication of statutory notices	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2011
4 week period for representations and objections closes	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2011
LA decision	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
Implementation	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2012

There are no other 'linked proposals to consider.

## **8. Finance**

The costs associated with the building expansion programme have been arranged prior to consultation via the Capital Projects Programme.

Initial School funding to support the additional places has been identified via the Dedicated Schools Grant to cover the September 2012- March 2013 period as previously reported.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There are always risks and uncertainties when school place provision is considered since future pupil numbers and consequently, individual school budget funding, are based on estimated projections at a point in time. Over provision at one school could have a negative impact on provision at other schools. Local Authorities have a duty, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental choice.

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.

A detailed and costed report will be submitted to Schools Forum, by January 2012, to request authorisation for DSG funding to be allocated to support the transitional September 2012 – March 2013 period (7/12<sup>ths</sup>). The additional pupils were not on roll for the 2011 January School Census return and, therefore, the 2011/2012 individual school budget allocation is insufficient to fund additional teaching and support staff required from September 2012.

## **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'.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Report to Cabinet Member and Advisers of the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Report to Cabinet Member and Advisers of the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Minutes of the meetings held with relevant School Governors, staff and parents.

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