

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services
2.	Date:	21st May, 2014
3.	Title:	Proposals to expand Cortonwood Infant School – final determination.
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report seeks a final determination on proposals to expand the School.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that in the absence of any objections to the proposal to expand Cortonwood Infant School, conditional approval should be granted (subject to a successful planning permission application).

7. Proposals and Details

It is proposed to expand the numbers on roll at Cortonwood Infant School from September 2017 in Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) and subsequent Foundation Stage 2 (Reception) cohorts thereafter. The school will be expanded in order to accommodate 50 children per statutory year group ($50 \times 3 = 150$ places) rather than its current capacity of $40 \times 3 = 120$ places. The school would have a phased published admission number (PAN) of 50.

As the proposal is linked to the proposed expansion of Brampton the Ellis Junior School the proposals have been consulted upon simultaneously.

8. Finance

The capital cost of the building project is currently estimated at £200,000. This will provide further teaching and learning spaces and other required spaces to be developed further in conjunction with the CYPS Capital Projects Team, Architects and the school. Funding for the project is from 'Basic Need funding' allocated to the Authority from the DfE (Basic Need funding is provided for the provision of sufficient school places) and Section 106 developer contributions (subject to trigger points).

The school will need to plan for the expansion and appoint additional teaching and non teaching staff. Funding for the additional staffing will be generated from the additional pupils on roll 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 school's budget to be allocated, additional funding will need to be requested from the Contingency for pupil growth to cover the 7/12 funding gap via Schools Forum.

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. Local Authorities are obliged, however, to provide sufficient places, promote diversity and increase parental preference. (CYD0015/018 - Corporate risk register).

A final decision should be determined by the decision maker 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.

Rotherham School Improvement Mission:

- ~ All children will make at least good progress
- ~ There will be no underperforming cohorts
- ~ All teachers will deliver at least good learning
- ~ All schools will move to the next level of successful performance

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013

School Organisation (Maintained Schools) guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014)

A full pre statutory and statutory consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders.

Reports to Cabinet Member 24th July 2013 and 5th March 2014.

Public Notice period 14th March to 11th April 2014.

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