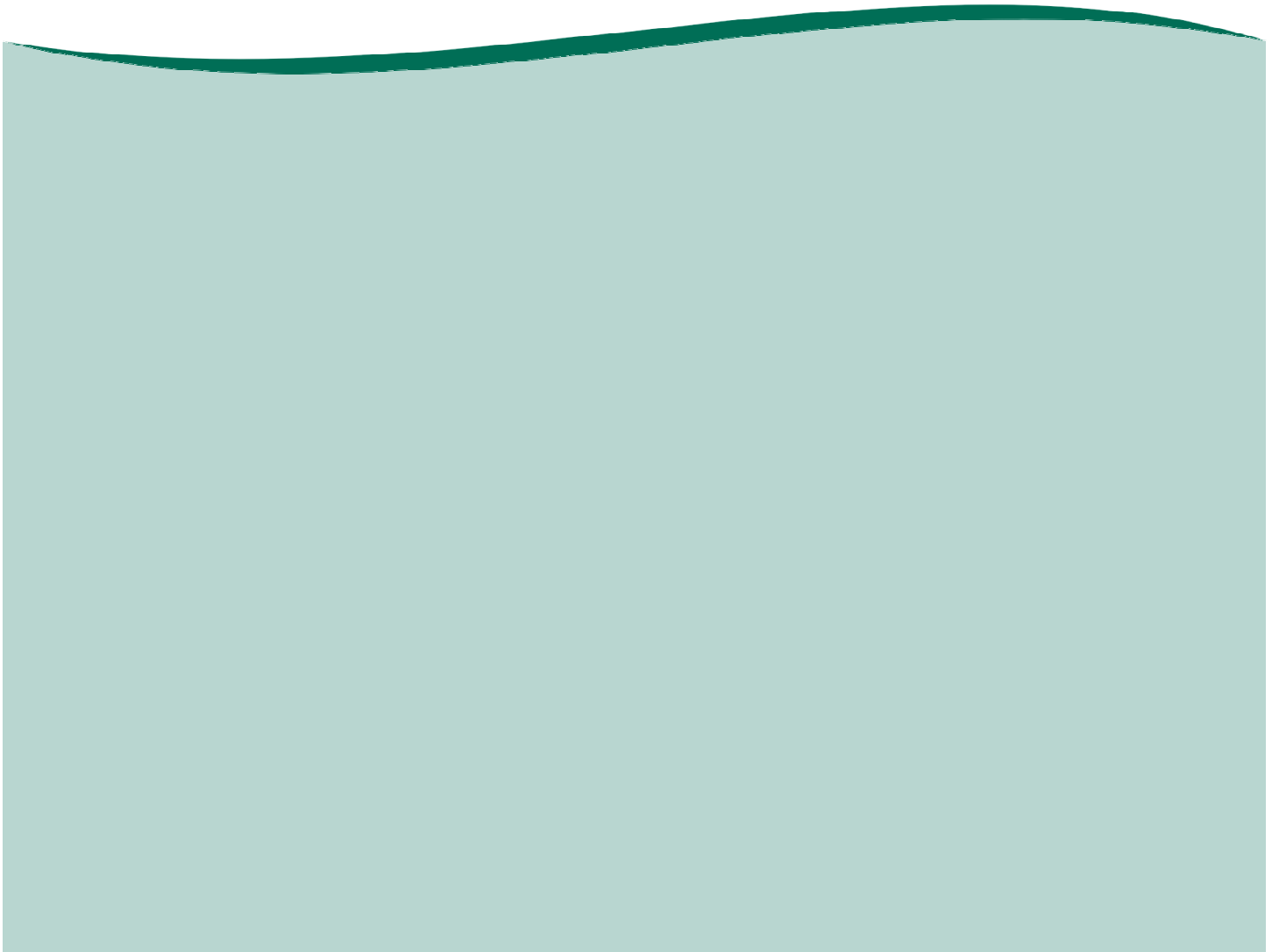


New East Trowbridge Primary School

-Background Information-



1. INTRODUCTION

Wiltshire Council has a statutory duty to plan the provision of school places, to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the area, promote high educational standards and ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The Council manages the rising and declining pupil numbers and creates a diverse community of schools. This document has been prepared to set the scene for a competition for opening a new primary school in Trowbridge.

A core ambition of Wiltshire Council is that all children and young people living in Wiltshire are entitled to the highest quality education so that they are able to fulfil their potential. We aim to produce an effective match between pupils and places by providing an infrastructure of high quality school buildings and facilities, where all schools are of an appropriate size and standard to deliver the curriculum most effectively.

2. WILTSHIRE

Wiltshire Council is one of the largest unitary authorities in England and one of the most rural. Wiltshire adjoins the local authorities of Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Hampshire, Swindon, Bath and North East Somerset.

Wiltshire is a predominantly rural county. It has a population of 461,500, nearly half of whom live in towns or villages with fewer than 5,000 people. A quarter of the county's inhabitants live in settlements of fewer than 1,000 people.

In the year between July 2008 and June 2009, 81% of Wiltshire's working age population was in employment. This is higher than the employment rate for both the South West (77%) and England (73.4%). The authority's area covers approximately 3,255 square kilometres. The largest settlements in Wiltshire are the historic cathedral city of Salisbury in the south, the county town of Trowbridge in the west, and the market town of Chippenham in the north. The city of Salisbury serves a large surrounding rural area. Trowbridge plays a role as an employment, administration and service centre for the west Wiltshire area, and has good transport links to many nearby settlements. Chippenham has a busy town centre and, in recent decades, an expanding urban area and is a focus for employment and housing growth due to its proximity and good access to the M4 and rail links. It has direct transport links with Swindon, Bath, Bristol and London.

Wiltshire also contains numerous villages and rural settlements reflecting the rural nature of the county. Wiltshire has a considerable variety of school buildings in terms of age and type. The rural nature of the county is reflected by the fact that DfE have determined that 68% of our primary schools are 'rural' with a presumption against their closure.

Major contextual issues

Wiltshire Council faces three specific issues in managing school places:-

1. Significant housing development in parts of the county which are mainly concentrated in urban areas and will lead to a need for more school places or the take up current surplus places.
2. The decline in primary aged children is reaching its trough and will increase significantly in the next few years. Secondary numbers are forecast to decrease slightly over the next few years and then rise again in three to four years time. However, these trends are not consistent across the county and there are considerable geographical differences that need to be planned.
3. It is expected that Wiltshire will need to accommodate significant additional housing, mostly in the urban areas. There is very little new housing planned in rural villages with a decreasing number of families with young children moving into these villages. The geographical distribution of this housing will have a significant impact on school place planning. It is clear that much of this housing will be concentrated in existing urban areas.

Wiltshire Council, the Dioceses of Salisbury, Bristol and Clifton, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the governing bodies of schools and academies are all key partners and have important roles in school place planning. With 234 schools and over 69,000 pupils to consider, finding workable strategies for planning school places is demanding and challenging for all concerned.

The School Organisation Plan provides comprehensive information on school place planning in the county and outlines how the Local Authority, in securing the provision of primary, secondary and special education, will also support the promotion of:

- The raising of standards
- Improved outcomes for all pupils
- Diversity of provision
- Increased collaboration between schools
- Greater community cohesion.

3. TROWBRIDGE PROFILE

The Trowbridge Community area includes the parishes of Hilperton, North Bradley, Southwick, Trowbridge and West Ashton.

Education Standards in the Community area:

Primary: Of the 15 primary schools in the Trowbridge area (14 primary and 1 special) 14 are included in the analysis with area results showing lower performance than that of national, LA and statistical neighbour comparators. The range of results in the area shows a diversity of performance with results from 20% to 95%. OfSTED inspections show 60% of schools in the area being judged good or outstanding.

Secondary: The area is served by 4 schools (3 secondary and 1 special school). Performance for the area is improving although remains below Wiltshire, the national figures and statistical neighbours.

4. CURRENT PROVISION

There are 14 primary age schools in the Trowbridge area and 3 secondary schools which cater for the 11-19 age range. There is one special school in the Trowbridge area. Specialist learning provision is also offered as below:

Studley Green Primary School – Complex Needs and Speech & Language
Grove Primary School – Hearing Impairment

Table 1 – Schools in the Trowbridge Cluster

Primary	Status as at September 2012
Bellefield Primary and Nursery School	Voluntary Controlled
Grove Primary School	Community
Hilperton C E Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Holbrook Primary School	Community
Newtown Community Primary School	Community
North Bradley C E Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Paxcroft Primary School	Foundation
Southwick C E Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
St. John's Catholic School	Voluntary Aided
Studley Green Primary School	Foundation
The Mead Academy Trust	Community
Trowbridge Longmeadow Primary School	Community
Walwayne Court School	Community
West Ashton C E Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Secondary	
The Clarendon College – Specialist Language Centre	Community
The John of Gaunt School, A Science, Mathematics and Computing College	Academy
St. Augustine's Catholic School and Technology College	Academy
Special	
Larkrise School	Community

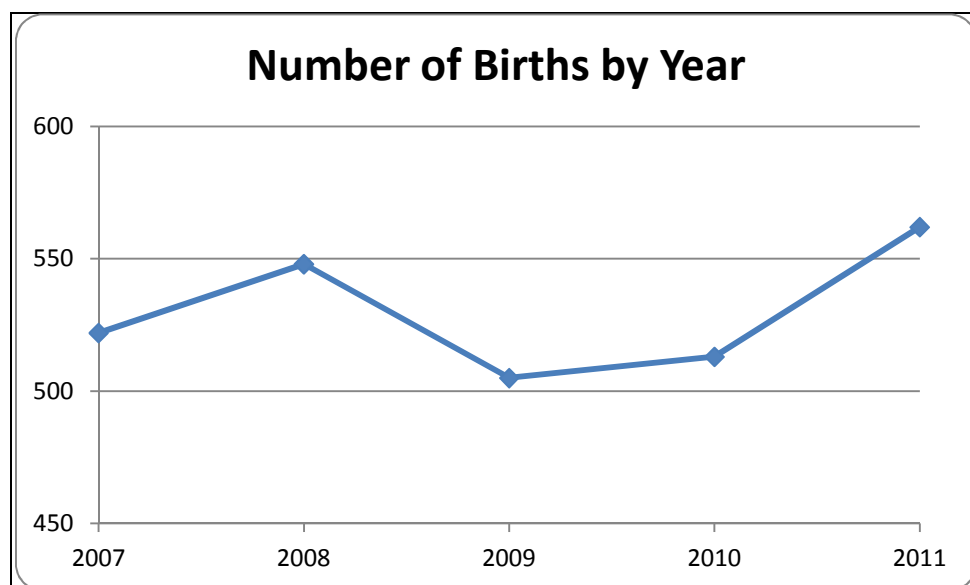
5. FORECAST

Births in Trowbridge

The birth rate has, on average, remained the same, with occasional peaks which can be seen in the table and graph below.

Table 2 – Numbers of Births reported by the Health Authority in the Trowbridge area

Birth year	2006- 07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number	522	548	505	513	562
<i>Reception year</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>



Issues for Future Primary School Provision

The Wiltshire Core Strategy proposes a further 4590 dwellings in the Trowbridge community area, substantially all of which will be in Trowbridge. The new housing is projected to generate 93 Primary aged pupils per year from academic year 2012/2013. Initially, these pupils can be accommodated within the existing provision across the town. A new 1FE primary school at East Trowbridge is scheduled to open September 2014.

The table below shows the anticipated demand for places at the Trowbridge town schools.

Year	PAN	Pupils in Year R	Spare Year R Places
2009/10	463	378	85
2010/11	460	384	76
2011/12	463	402	61
2012/13	463	416	47
2013/14	456	430	26
2014/15	456	465	-9
2015/16	456	497	-41
2025/26	456	610	-154

With the addition of planned new housing there will be a shortfall of up to 154 places per year group by 2025/2026, with the need for a new school from 2014. The precise shortfall will depend on the final mix of dwelling sizes, social housing & windfall sites actually built.

6. PLANNING TO MEET EDUCATION NEED

The School Place Planning Programme has already introduced a significant number of additional school places into Trowbridge through the permanent or temporary expansion of many primary schools. However, most schools are now at full capacity with limited scope for any further expansion.

A full range of options for providing these places was investigated by the Changing Schools Board. The option of creating a new Primary Academy on the site provided the developer in East Trowbridge was identified as a cost effective way of providing permanent places close to where they are needed.

7. FUNDING

The capital cost of developing the school building and site will be provided by the developer under a Section 106 agreement.

As the new school will be an Academy, the successful sponsor will need to enter into a revenue funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

8. PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHOOL

The Education Act (2011) states that when a Local Authority identifies the need for a new school, that this school should be promoted as either an Academy or a Free School. The Local Authority is required to publish a notice inviting proposals to this effect and to specify a date for academy / free school proposals to be received.

After that date, the Local Authority should forward all proposals received to the Secretary of State outlining the steps taken to secure the proposals together with the details of any academy / free school proposals received, or, if no proposals have been received.

Potential sponsors of the new school will be expected to present their proposals at a meeting with Councillors (Members), Headteachers and Local Authority officers and attend an interview to discuss their proposals in more detail.

Following detailed consideration of all of the information available to them, the Members and officers concerned will reach a view on which, if any, of the applications received they would prefer to see implemented. A report on the conclusions reached will then be presented to the next available meeting of the Council's Cabinet (its decision-making body).

It is important to note that whilst the Local Authority is able to state a preference in respect of which application it would wish to see implemented, it is the Secretary of State for Education who will make the final decision and select the successful sponsor.

If none of the proposals are acceptable to the Secretary of State for Education, then the Local Authority will embark on a school competition process based on the guidelines to establish a new maintained mainstream school as set out in section 7 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Key milestones for establishing the new primary school for East Trowbridge are set out below:

Stage 1 – Consultation:

January 2013 Consultation with community and relevant Area Board

Stage 2 – Invitation for Proposals:

March 2013 Advertise to prospective bidders

April 2013 Deadline for receipt of proposals

Stage 3 – Assessment:

End of April 2013 Assessment and shortlisting of proposals begins

May 2013 Assessment Panel Interviews and presentations
June/July 2013 Wiltshire Council Cabinet confirms its preferred sponsor

Stage 4 – Decision by Secretary of State:

July 2013 There is no specified timescale for this part of the process but it is estimated at 2 weeks.

July 2013 Once advised of the outcome of the Secretary of State's consideration of the applications, the Local Authority will publicise this information on its website and via other media / communication channels and begin the process of working with the successful sponsor to establish the new primary school.

9. FURTHER DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORM

Proposals should be submitted using the Wiltshire Council Application Form and Specification Document. The Application Form and Specification Document are available from:

jodie.maslen@wiltshire.gov.uk

Completed Application Forms must be submitted by 6:00pm on Monday 22 April 2013

Please note that the selection process of a preferred sponsor will include a formal presentation to an interview by a panel in May 2013.

If you would like any further information, or would like to discuss your application in detail, please contact Jodie Maslen:

Email: jodie.maslen@wiltshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01225 713769