

New Tidworth, North East Quadrant 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 Tidworth.

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. TIDWORTH PROFILE

The Tidworth Community area includes the Parishes: Collingbourne Ducis, Collingbourne Kingston, Chute, Chute Forest, Enford, Everleigh, Fittleton, Ludgershall, Netheravon, Tidcombe & Fosbury and Tidworth. The Area Board also works closely with Tidworth Community Area Partnership and the MOD.

Education Standards in the Community area:

The results for primary schools in this area are in line with national, LA and statistical neighbour comparators. Five primary schools are included in the analysis with KS2 English and Mathematics level 4 results ranging from 65% to 93%. OfSTED inspections show 60% of schools in the area being judged good or outstanding. This area includes 1 secondary school. The area performance is well below national, LA and statistical neighbour comparators.

4. CURRENT PROVISION

There are four primary schools, one infant and one junior school in the Tidworth area and one secondary school catering for the 11-19 age range. There are no special schools in the area.

Table 1 – Schools in the Tidworth Cluster.

Primary	Status as at September 2012
Castle Primary School, Ludgershall	Foundation
Clarendon Infants School	Foundation
Clarendon Junior School, Tidworth	Foundation
Collingbourne C E Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
All Saints C E Primary School, Netheravon	Voluntary Aided
Zouch Primary School	Foundation
Secondary	
Wellington Academy	Academy

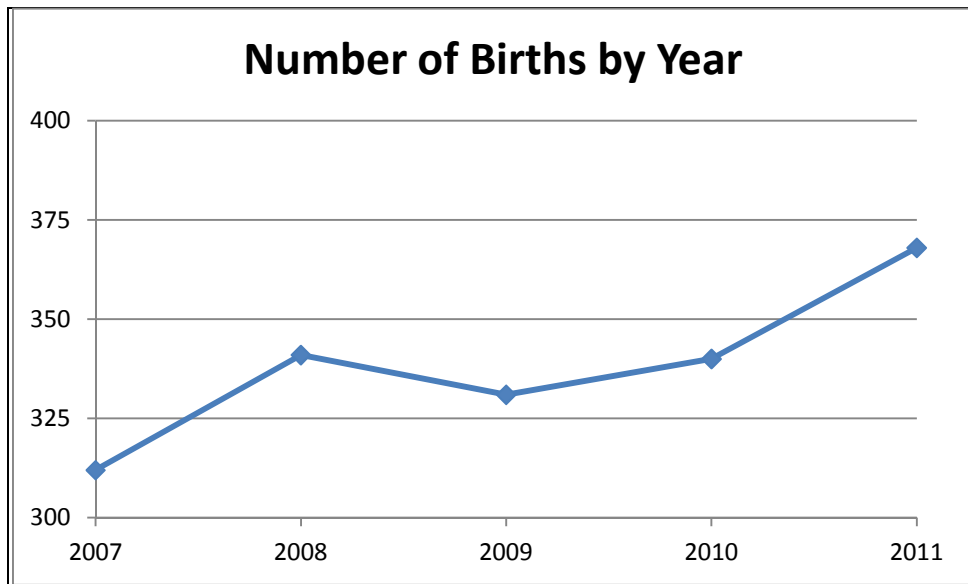
5. FORECAST

Births in Tidworth

The birth rate has steadily increased as shown in the table below. This pattern along with the impact of future troop movements and significant housing development will increase demand for primary school places over the coming 10 years.

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

Birth year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number	312	341	331	340	368
<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

Even without the addition of housing there will be particular pressure on reception places in the town schools for the 2014/15 academic year. A 2 class extension to Clarendon Infants School opened in September 2012 which increased the PAN from 90 to 105. From September 2013, a corresponding extension at Clarendon Junior School is due to open, again increasing PAN from 90 to 105 and overall capacity at the Junior School to 315.

The planned new housing development at NEQ will initially require up to a 1.5FE primary school. Initially, the PAN may be held to 30, but will be kept under review and will increase incrementally as housing completes.

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

Year	PAN	Pupils in Year R	Spare Year R Places	% Spare Year R	Total Places	Total NOR	Housing Pupil Production	Surplus Places	% Surplus Places
2009/10	201	110	91	45%	1407	981	0	426	30%
2010/11	201	144	57	28%	1407	1078	0	329	23%
2011/12	201	185	16	8%	1407	1103	0	304	22%
2012/13	216	190	26	12%	1467	1170	0	297	20%
2013/14	216	192	24	11%	1467	1222	42	203	14%
2014/15	216	203	13	6%	1467	1260	84	123	8%
2015/16	216	202	14	6%	1467	1312	126	29	2%
2025/26	216	202	14	6%	1467	1312	406 (504)	-251 (-349)	-17% (-24%)

With the addition of planned new housing there will be an estimated shortfall of up to 349 places 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

6. PLANNING TO MEET EDUCATION NEED

The School Place Planning Programme has already introduced a number of additional school places into Tidworth through the permanent and temporary expansion of local schools. However, these schools are now at full capacity with limited scope for any further expansion.

A full range of options for providing the places was investigated by the Changing Schools Board. The option of creating a new Primary Academy on the site provided by the developer in Tidworth 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 funded 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 invite 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 Tidworth 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:

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 22 April 2013

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

If you would like any further information, or would like to discuss your application in detail, in the first instance please contact:

Email: jodie.maslen@wiltshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01225 713769