

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES Cllr Laura Mayes

SERVICE AREA CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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REFERENCE: CS-04-18

**INTENTION - Statutory Notice for the enlargement of Priestley Primary School,
Prince Charles Drive, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8TG**

1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Cabinet Member to approve the statutory proposal published by Wiltshire Council and the governing body of Priestley Primary School on 26 April 2018. The notice proposes the enlargement of the school to provide a 1.5 Form of Entry (1.5FE), 315 place primary school. It is proposed to permanently increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 1 September 2019 (subject to planning approval) when an increase of 15 additional pupils will be admitted into the Reception Year. Up to 45 Reception age pupils will be admitted in each subsequent year.

2. Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure effective school organisation and sufficient school places are provided across the Council area.

3. Main Considerations for the Council

The LA has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places across Wiltshire and projections indicate a need for an additional 0.5 Form of Entry (up to 105 places) in the Calne locality. The additional places are required in September 2019. Work has been undertaken to establish the best way of providing the additional places without adversely impacting on the sustainability or viability of other schools in the locality.

4. Background

There are 932 houses with planning permission still to be built in the Calne community area. This housing is predicted to generate a further 280 primary aged pupils.

Due to the legacy of surplus places in Calne it is expected this increase in demand can be contained within the existing schools in the short term. The anticipated deficit in places is forecast to begin from September 2019. The expansion project at Priestley Primary School will provide 105 places (0.5FE) at Priestley Primary School from September 2019 to address the anticipated deficit.

Consultation

Wiltshire Council and Priestley Primary School have consulted on the proposal to expand Priestley Primary School to provide 0.5 forms of entry (105 places). The consultation took place between January and March 2018 with the following interested parties:

- Parents and carers of children at the school
- Teachers and support staff at the school
- Governors at the school
- Councillor Ian Thorne
- Calne Town Council
- Early Years Team and The Rise Trust who operate the Calne Children's Centre on the Priestley Primary site.
- Wiltshire Council's Lead Member for Children's Services: Councillor Laura Mayes and portfolio holder for Education: Councillor Phillip Whalley
- Wiltshire Council Highways Department
- Neighbours adjacent to the school site

A public meeting was held at the school on 22 February 2018, where concerns were raised by 4 neighbours in Westerham Walk regarding the impact of the extension on their properties. These will be addressed as part of the usual planning process. There were no responses received to the statutory notice.

5. Overview & Scrutiny Engagement

Not applicable

6. Safeguarding Implications

All school projects are designed to ensure that schools provide safe and secure places for children and young people in the local community. If a decision was taken not to extend a school to meet demand in a local area then there is a risk that young people would need to be transported to schools a long distance from their locality leaving them more vulnerable due to the distance they are from home.

7. Public Health Implications

The development of quality school accommodation will provide improved site infrastructure at Priestley Primary School including 4 additional classrooms, toilets, group room, larger staff room, new entrance and lift to the existing upstairs classrooms to provide disabled access. The new entrance will also improve safeguarding at the school.

8. Procurement Implications

Responsibility for commissioning approved capital building projects rests with the Council's Property Services Team. Responsibility for approving related procurement activity rests with the Corporate Procurement and Commissioning Board (the Board). This decision will require the procurement of a works contract to deliver the additional school place capacity required.

9. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

Through detailed planning and effective design, officers continue to ensure that all accommodation improvements promote and deliver equality of opportunity and access to facilities.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that reasonable adjustments must be taken into consideration in design. By adopting compliant design principles, and ensuring all schemes meet Building Regulations it should be possible to eradicate disability access difficulties and discrimination in the new extension and rationalisation of existing school buildings.

The Local Authority has a duty and responsibility to provide sufficient mainstream school places to meet demand arising from all areas of the community.

10. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

In all education-related capital investment schemes, officers continue to work with establishments to develop and enhance the learning environment taking account of sustainability and environmental impact, including the move towards reducing carbon emissions from schools for the benefit of pupils, staff and the community.

Although schools are no longer subject to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (carbon tax payable by large energy consumers), with ever increasing energy prices, every effort will be made through the design process to reduce lifetime running costs of new buildings.

11. Risk Assessment

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is not taken

- (a) If the decision is not taken, then there will be a short fall of primary school places in the Calne locality from September 2019 and an increasing number of parents/carers will not be able to secure a place for their child in a local school.
- (b) An urgent temporary solution would be required to provide additional places to meet the demand from children arising from the new housing.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

- (a) There is a financial risk that capital costs could increase and exceed the funding envelope agreed. To mitigate this, the project brief and specification will be in line with policy and the project management and design teams will ensure that where possible, value engineering exercises are undertaken to reduce costs and keep within budget.
- (b) There is a risk that the project could be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. The phasing and timelines will be closely monitored monthly, to avoid slippage where at all possible.

12. Financial Implications

The provision of an additional 0.5FE (up to 210 additional places) for Priestley Primary School was approved in the School Capital Programme Report presented to Cabinet Capital Assets Committee on 30 January 2018.

A provisional capital budget of £2.3m has been agreed for delivery of the works required to provide the additional primary places. The majority will be funded by Section 106 developer contributions with any additional costs met from the Council's schools basic need allocation. No capital costs for construction are expected to be incurred by the governing body.

Where any school increases its pupil numbers, there is a revenue budget formula funding lag. To counter this increase in PAN from 30 per year group to 45, the school will be entitled to some one-off funding through the Council's Growth Fund, for the basic need expansion of the school. Thereafter the increase in pupil numbers will be collected in the October census and revenue funding distributed on the basis of the actual pupils on roll.

13. Legal Implications

The Council has a duty to secure that sufficient school places are available in their area. These proposals will contribute to meeting that duty. There is a prescribed process that must be followed where it is proposed to increase the size of a school by more than a specified number of pupils. These proposals fall within those requirements and the relevant public notice has been given. The Council has a duty to consider any representations received as a result of that notice, before making a determination to approve or reject the proposal. Any approval may be made conditional on the grant of planning permission or other prescribed matters.

Alterations to Maintained schools, such as Priestley Primary are governed by The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 ("Prescribed Alterations Regulations"). When exercising functions under these regulations regard must be had to guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), "Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools", which sets out the procedure to be followed. The process as set out in the report follows that of the guidance.

The Cabinet member, as decision maker must have regard to a list of factors included in further statutory guidance, namely "Guidance for decision-makers", particularly Section 2 and 3 (A copy has been placed in the Cabinet Room).

14. Options Considered

Virtually all the housing in Calne lies within the designated area of Priestley Primary School. The school is on a large open site enabling simple expansion. Therefore this is considered to be only viable option to meet the demand for places in the town.

15. Reason for Proposal

The LA has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places across Wiltshire and projections indicate a need for an additional 0.5 Form of Entry (up to 105 places) in the Calne area. The expansion of Priestley Primary School on its existing site is the most appropriate solution to providing the required places in a timely way.

16. Proposal

To approve the statutory proposal published by Wiltshire Council and the governing body of Priestley Primary School on 26 April 2018. The notice proposes the

enlargement of the school to provide a 1.5 Form of Entry (1.5FE), 315 place primary school and to permanently increase the Planned Admission Number (PAN) to 45 with effect from September 2019 (subject to planning approval).

Appendix A – Statutory Notice

The following documents are available from the officer named above:

Feasibility Study - Expansion of Calne Primary School

Copies of the 4 pre-planning consultation responses mentioned in paragraph 4 above.

Appendix A

STATUTORY NOTICE

Wiltshire Council Statutory Notice for a proposed enlargement to Priestley Primary School, Prince Charles Drive, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8TG.

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Wiltshire Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Priestley Primary School, Prince Charles Drive, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8TG from 1 September 2019.

Wiltshire Council proposes to enlarge the premises of Priestley Primary School by admitting an additional 105 pupils/0.5 Form of Entry (FE) into the Reception year from 1 September 2019. This will be accommodated through building works to provide purpose built new accommodation (subject to planning permission).

The current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 315, an increase of 105 places/0.5 Form of Entry (FE). The work is proposed to complete by 1 September 2019. The October 2017 School Census gave the number of pupils aged 4 to 11 registered at the school as 199. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number in September 2019 will be 45.

It is proposed to permanently increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 1 September 2019, when an increase of 15 additional pupils will be admitted into the Reception Year. Up to 45 Reception age pupils will be admitted in each subsequent year. Building work will be undertaken (subject to receipt of planning permission) and the new facilities will be implemented by Wiltshire Council as part of the Capital Programme.

Access to copies of the full proposals

This Notice is a brief extract of the full related proposals, which are available to view on the Priestley Primary School website at www.priestley.wilts.sch.uk Paper copies of the full proposals can also be obtained upon request from School Buildings and Places Team (ref: Priestley) Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.

Comments on, or objections to, the proposals

Any person or organisation may object to, or comment on, the above related proposals by sending them to School Buildings and Places Team, Wiltshire Council (ref: Priestley), County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN within 4 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, namely by close of business on Thursday 24 May 2018.

All statutory consultation requirements relating to these proposals have been complied with.

Signed:

I R Gibbons
Solicitor to the Council

PUBLICATION DATE: 26 April 2018