

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for People &amp; Communities</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>On or after 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (for single Member decision)</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 2863</b>
TITLE:	<b>St Keyna Primary School – Basic Need Expansion</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Appendix 1 – Feasibility plans detailing new accommodation and internal remodelling works.		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Pupil numbers in the Keynsham/Saltford area are increasing at a significantly higher rate than previously indicated by the pupil projections. This is leading to pressure on places at local schools and in September 2016 there will be a shortfall of places for the reception year intake.
- 1.2 In order to deliver an increased number of pupil places, it is proposed to provide additional modular accommodation and undertake internal remodelling at St Keyna Primary School. This will enable the school to take a further bulge class from September 2016.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve a capital budget of £436,974 from the 2016/17 Basic Need Capital Programme to provide additional accommodation and carry out minor remodelling works at St Keyna Primary School.

### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 Revenue funding for pupil places will be provided by the Department for Education (DfE) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on a per pupil basis.

- 3.2 The DfE currently allocate Basic Need capital funding to local authorities in order to provide additional school places, where pupils are projected to exceed the number of places available and where the increase is occurring as a result of population growth.
- 3.3 Basic Need funding of £6.3m has been identified by the DfE for 2016/17.
- 3.4 Provisional approval of £2.605m unallocated funding was agreed in the Council's 2016/17 Budget Report for emerging basic need schemes. The Budget report identified a potential requirement for capital funding in the Keynsham area for September 2016.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, Children, Equalities, Planning, Social Inclusion, Property, Impact on staff.
- 4.2 No other statutory considerations.

#### **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 In common with many areas locally and nationally, the Keynsham/Saltford area has seen increased demand for pupil places over recent years due to population growth. In addition a number of large to medium sized housing developments are underway with further development identified in the Core Strategy.
- 5.2 A number of local schools have been expanded and accepted bulge classes to provide additional pupil places in the area. A new school 'Somerdale' is currently under construction to provide places for the Somerdale housing development.
- 5.3 In late 2015, The School Organisation Manager identified that pupil numbers were increasing at a faster rate than previous patterns have indicated. The reason for this is not immediately clear but may be attributable to a number of factors including the regeneration of local social housing, a larger number of families moving into the area and a faster rate of occupation of new housing.
- 5.4 The School Organisation Manager and Admissions Manager met with local schools to determine whether there was additional existing capacity to provide more pupil places. There are six local schools within the area and all except two (Chandag Infant & Junior School) have already taken additional pupils over recent years. At Chandag expansion is complicated because of its Infant/Junior status and also because the site organisation is very constrained.
- 5.5 St Keyna Primary School has an area of land adjacent to the school site identified for potential future expansion. In light of the increased growth in pupil numbers, officers approached the Head to discuss a feasibility to look at possible future expansion. During these discussions, the Head agreed to consider accepting a bulge class for September 2016 on the condition that permanent accommodation was provided for the additional places. The school has already accepted two bulge intakes and the current accommodation would be insufficient to support a further class. Following consultation with the governing body it was agreed the School would relocate its existing nursery class into a new modular building, freeing up space for an additional reception class within the main school buildings.

- 5.6 Architects were engaged to carry out a feasibility which identified a building and location that would be well placed should the future expansion plans be implemented.
- 5.7 Following this feasibility exercise it is planned to locate a new modular build classroom space, toilet facilities and office space within the current reception/nursery playground area. The lost playground space will be replaced by utilising an area adjacent to the playground which is currently under used. Plans for the new accommodation can be found at Appendix 1.
- 5.8 The proposed building will provide a robust, well designed facility which will be an asset to the school and local community.
- 5.9 Owing to the short timescales and to ensure the spaces are available for September 2016, some minor internal remodelling of the schools specialist classroom space will be required. This will provide a short term temporary space for the new reception pupils but will be reinstated once the new building is available.

## **6 RATIONALE**

- 6.1 The Council still retains the legal responsibility for pupil place planning in its area and in order to do this effectively must find solutions for the delivery of additional school places where required.
- 6.2 Basic Need grant funding is made available to local authorities to address the issue of population growth, enabling them to provide additional school places.
- 6.3 Should further expansion at St Keyna be required, the buildings delivered as part of this scheme have been designed and located in order to facilitate further expansion.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 Over recent years, a number of primary schools in the Keynsham/Saltford area have been expanded or accepted bulge classes. All schools in the area were asked to consider taking additional pupils from September 2016.
- 7.2 Many of the existing schools are already on constrained sites and have limited scope for expansion. Additionally with more schools converting to academy, there was less scope for the Council to insist a school accepts additional pupils.
- 7.3 Transportation to schools outside of the Keynsham area is an option but this will bring associated transport costs and would be unpopular with parents.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The School Organisation Manager and Admissions Manager are supportive of the proposal and have reviewed this report
- 8.2 A PID has been prepared for consultation with Divisional Directors
- 8.3 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted and has reviewed this report.

**9 RISK MANAGEMENT**

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. Significant risks identified are;

9.2 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places and failure to ensure this will result in the Council being at risk of breaching its responsibility.

If implemented the recommendation in this report will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty and the local need in a sustainable manner.

9.3 The eventual need for places may be less or greater than projected.

9.4 A delayed planning or construction period would create additional organisational issues for the school.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Josephine Rees 01225 395149</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	