

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 29 June 2016 (for single Member decision)	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2878
TITLE:	Ubley CofE Primary School – Basic Need Expansion	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendices 1a and 1b – Feasibility plans detailing new accommodation		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Pupil numbers at Ubley CofE Primary School have been increasing due to underlying population growth and some local housing development. Due to increasing demand the School has admitted pupils in excess of the Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 12 for a number of years leading to some year groups being over capacity. This pattern is expected to continue over the coming years.
- 1.2 In order to accommodate existing and projected future pupil numbers it is proposed to provide additional accommodation to enable this popular school to continue to deliver a full and successful curriculum to local children.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve a capital budget of £329,000 from the 2016-17 Basic Need Capital Programme to provide permanent additional accommodation at Ubley CofE 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 and the project at Ubley CofE Primary school is such a scheme.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for its area (Section 14 Education Act 1996), Children, Equalities, Planning, Social Inclusion, Property, Impact on staff, sustainability.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The village of Ubley is in an area currently experiencing underlying population growth. In addition there are some small to medium sized housing developments in the area.

5.2 As a result, Ubley CofE Primary which serves primary age children living in the village and the surrounding rural area has seen increasing numbers on roll (NOR) and this pattern is expected to continue over the coming years.

5.3 Due to demand for places at the school pupils in excess of the planned admission number (PAN) have been admitted for a number of years. As these larger year groups work through the school and with this increased demand projected to continue, there is a requirement for additional accommodation.

5.4 The school currently has three classrooms, two of which are undersized according to current guidelines, and very little group or breakout space. The School uses off-site facilities for PE and hall space.

5.5 The net capacity of the school is 80 pupils, from September 2016 the projected NOR is likely to be 84 and by September 2018 the projected NOR is likely to be 93.

5.6 Architects were engaged to carry out a feasibility to add teaching space which identified a potential location and building.

5.7 Following this feasibility exercise it is planned to locate a new permanent modular building with classroom space, cloakrooms, storage and a small group space to the front of the existing buildings. This is the only suitable and most accessible position on a very restricted school site. Plans for the new accommodation can be found at Appendix 1.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The Council 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 Due to demand Ubley CofE Primary School has already admitted pupils above their PAN and this demand is projected likely to continue.

6.4 To aid parental preference as stated in the Council's School Organisation Plan and to facilitate sustainable methods of transport to school and keep home to school transport costs to a minimum.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 Transportation to schools outside of the village is an option but this will bring associated transport costs and is likely to 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 was presented to and approved by Divisional Directors on 24 May 2016.

8.3 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted, is supportive of the project 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. The 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 A delayed or rejected planning decision would leave the school operating with pupils over and above the maximum net capacity recommendation.

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Background papers	<i>None</i>
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