

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for People & Communities	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 8 April 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2956
TITLE:	Whitchurch Primary School Expansion	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Increasing pupil numbers due to housing development as part of the Whitchurch Strategic Housing Allocation in the Core Strategy will result in Whitchurch Primary School expanding from a one form entry 210 place primary school to a 1.5 form entry 315 place school.
- 1.2 In order to accommodate the extra 105 pupils the project is proposed to provide additional permanent classrooms and facilities on the existing Whitchurch Primary School site.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Cabinet Member to give full approval to a project budget of £1.309m to be included in the 2017/18 Schools Capital Programme, to expand school place provision at Whitchurch Primary School.
- 2.2 Cabinet Member to approve Basic Need funding of £1,267,000 and Section 106 (S106) funding of £42,457 (already received by the Council) for the project.
- 2.3 Further S106 contributions of circa £680k are anticipated to be received from housing development and Cabinet Member approval is requested to return these contributions to the Basic Need budget once received.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no revenue implications, 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 The Council's [Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015 – 2019](#) sets out the priorities for the provision of school places.
- 3.4 Basic Need grant funding of £3.039m in 2017/18 and £5.758m in 2018/19 has been confirmed by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for Basic Need to support the provision of additional pupil places where there is population growth.
- 3.5 The expansion of Whitchurch Primary School is noted as an Emerging Capital Scheme at Appendix 2 agreed in the Council's 2016-17 Budget Report.
- 3.6 Provisional approval of the capital budget was agreed in the Council's 2017-18 Budget Report.
- 3.7 The project is to be funded by S106 and Basic Need as the additional primary school places are required due to population growth and housing development.
- 3.8 The project budget identified is in line with current cost estimates and contains project contingency.
- 3.9 S106 contributions of £72,457.50 were received on 6 October 2014 for the housing development at Orchard View, Sleep Lane, Whitchurch (11/02193/FUL). £30k of this contribution has been used to purchase an area of land to the rear of the school site which will facilitate expansion (see background papers). The remaining £42,457 will be used towards the expansion/enlargement of the school (see section 2.2 above), in line with the S106 criteria.
- 3.10 Further S106 Education Contributions are expected to be received from proposed new housing development (Bellway and Barratt) in Whitchurch. Based on current dwelling and pupil number calculations the sum anticipated is £682,765. This figure may fluctuate and if development does not proceed at any of the developments there is the potential that funding may not be forthcoming.
- 3.11 Once received by the Council these S106 contributions will replace part of the Basic Need element (£1,267,000) of the funding noted at 2.2 above.
- 3.12 The final Basic Need allocation is expected to be circa £585k if all expected S106 contributions are received.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 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 Whitchurch Strategic Housing Site Allocation in the Core Strategy will result in the need to increase capacity at Whitchurch Primary school by 105 places.
- 5.2 The scheme will increase the size of the school from a one form entry (210 pupils) using 7 classrooms to a 1.5 form entry (315 pupils) using 11 classrooms.

A new 4 classroom block and associated facilities is to be provided by 2018-19/2019-20.

- 5.3 The development at Whitchurch Primary will provide robust, well designed facilities which will be a lasting asset to the school and the local community.

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 S106 Developer Contributions received and expected are to expand or enlarge primary school provision in the area.
- 6.3 Basic Need grant funding is made available to local authorities to address the issue of population growth, enabling them to provide additional school places.
- 6.4 An area of land adjacent to the school playing field has been acquired by the Council using developer contributions to enable the expansion of the school.
- 6.5 The additional primary school places needed in the Whitchurch Primary area are required due to pupils generated by new housing development and some underlying population growth. The project will be funded by S106 and Basic Need.
- 6.6 [The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-19](#) (SOP) indicates the Council's Educational Strategies and Criteria for provision of new school places as a result of new housing development or underlying population growth.
- 6.7 Whitchurch Primary school was selected for expansion:
- 6.8 Due to the school's proximity to the new housing developments it is the closest for the pupils generated by those developments which are included in the Whitchurch Strategic Housing Site Allocation and Core Strategy.
- 6.9 The SOP states "*Where possible existing schools should be expanded.*"
- 6.10 There are insufficient school places in the Whitchurch area to accommodate the children generated by the housing developments and the underlying population growth.
- 6.11 To aid parental preference as stated in the SOP 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 No other options were considered as Whitchurch Primary School is the only school in Bath and North East Somerset that serves the local area. The expansion of the school is required due to pupils generated from housing development; S106 capital contributions were and are being secured to contribute towards the expansion costs at the school.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The School Organisation Manager and Admissions and Transport Manager are supportive of the proposal and have reviewed this report.
- 8.2 A PID was presented to and approved by Divisional Directors on 13th December 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 planning or construction period would create additional organisational issues for the school.

Contact person	<i>Anne Leach – 01225 395351</i>
Background papers	<p><i>Whitchurch Masterplan</i> https://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/data.aspx?requesttype=parse&template=DevelopmentControlApplication.tmplt&basepage=data.aspx&Filter=^refval^='15/03406/CONSLT'&history=776e152a5db4414c97a8f6ff7a972f7e&SearchLayer=DCApplications</p> <p><i>Core Strategy</i> http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/Core-Strategy/core_strategy_-_adopted_interactive_version.pdf</p> <p><i>Council Budget Report 2016-17 (Agenda Reports Pack, Public Reports Pack at page 36)</i></p> <p><i>Councillors and how the Council works Bath and North East Somerset Council</i></p> <p><i>Council Budget Report 2017-18 (Agenda Reports Pack, Public Reports Pack at page 58)</i></p> <p><i>Councillors and how the Council works Bath and North East Somerset Council</i></p> <p><i>Whitchurch Land Purchase Single Member Decision</i> https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=934</p>

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