

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for People & Communities	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 12 May 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2965
TITLE:	Schools Capital Projects at Freshford CofE Primary, Longvernal Primary and St Nicholas CofE Primary schools	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Increasing pupil numbers, mainly due to housing development, will require three primary schools to enhance or expand their current accommodation.
- 1.2 The Council retains the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for every child who is resident and requires a place.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to;

- 2.1 Give full approval to spend £32,429.08 S106 contributions secured and received from the Pipehouse Nursery Housing Development to expand and enhance current education facilities at Freshford CofE Primary School.
- 2.2 Give full approval to spend £70,000 S106 contributions secured and received from Inglenook, Primrose land and Alcan Housing Developments to provide bulge class accommodation at Longvernal Primary School.
- 2.3 Give full approval to spend £50,000 Basic Need Grant to provide an additional classroom space at St Nicholas CofE Primary School.

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 requirement to provide bulge class accommodation for September 2017 admissions at a Midsomer Norton Area primary school to be identified was given provisional approval at Appendix 2 agreed in the Council's 2017-18 Budget Report. Longvernal Primary School has been identified as the school to take the bulge class and S106 capital contributions received will fund the works at the school. The first phase of work to enable Longvernal Primary School to take a bulge class in September 2017 is the subject of this report; further works may be required to further enhance existing accommodation.
- 3.6 The expansion of accommodation from 280 to 420 places for September 2019 at St Nicholas CofE Primary School was given provisional approval at Appendix 2 agreed in the Council's 2017-18 Budget Report. The first phase of this expansion is to provide an additional classroom for September 2017. Details of the second phase of works will be brought forward as a separate report in due course.
- 3.7 The Council's 2017-18 Budget report approved a £450,000 CIL allocation to People & Communities which will be used to part fund the future full expansion project at St Nicholas Primary.
- 3.8 The project budgets identified are in line with current cost estimates and contain project contingencies.
- 3.9 A S106 Education Contribution of £32,429.08 has been received for the housing development at Pipehouse Nursery (14/01495/FUL) to be used to expand or enhance primary school provision in the area. Freshford CofE Primary School will spend this capital contribution to enhance and enlarge their existing accommodation.
- 3.10 S106 Education Contributions were received to expand or enhance primary provision in the area of Midsomer Norton from Inglenook, Primrose Land (12/02987/FUL) of £3,309.72 and from Alcan (11/01772/FUL) of £184,234 (£66,690.28 to be used for this project leaving a balance of £117,543.72).

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

Freshford CofE Primary School

- 5.1 Freshford CofE Primary School is proposing a project to carry out internal alterations to enhance and improve the teaching environment which include:
- 5.1.1 Alterations to a corridor and library area to create a new classroom space.
 - 5.1.2 Remodelling an existing cloakroom space to provide further additional teaching space for the reception class.
 - 5.1.3 To fit out new teaching areas with IT and fitted and loose furniture and to install an interactive monitor to a mezzanine area to create further teaching space.
- 5.2 Freshford CofE Primary School have been accepting children over and above their planned admission number of 20 (140 place school) and currently have around 150 pupils on roll. The proposed works and additional teaching spaces will provide much needed accommodation.

Longvernal Primary School

- 5.3 Longvernal Primary School will take a bulge class for September 2017 admissions. The bulge class is required because the Education Funding Agency has deferred delivery of the Midsomer Norton Free School pending identification of a suitable site.
- 5.4 The increasing pupil numbers in the Midsomer Norton area are due to population growth from new housing development in the area.
- 5.5 The capital project to provide the bulge class accommodation is to convert a room currently used as a nursery into a reception classroom with toilets and an outside canopied play area all conforming to BB103 current Area Guidelines for Mainstream Schools. The nursery provision is being moved out of the classroom to a modular building on the school site.

St Nicholas CofE Primary School

- 5.6 Due to new housing development in the Radstock area St Nicholas CofE Primary School needs to expand from a 280 place school with a planned admission number of 40 to a 420 place school with a planned admission number of 60.
- 5.7 The future expansion of the school will require a new classroom block and associated facilities to be delivered by September 2019.
- 5.8 The scheme for future expansion of the school was included, and provisional approval (£2.5m) agreed in the 2017-18 Council Budget Report. A full feasibility study has been commissioned and a further Report will be submitted when detailed design and costs for the full scheme have been identified.
- 5.9 To alleviate immediate pressure on school accommodation due to some larger year groups working through the school it is proposed to convert a library into a new classroom and the current IT suite into a library area to be complete for September 2017.

- 5.10 This current remodelling scheme will support the future expansion project by providing one additional classroom earlier than September 2019 allowing the school to expand when the places are required.

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 are to enhance or expand primary school provision in the area (Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Freshford).
- 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 [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.
- 6.5 Longvernal Primary School has agreed to take a bulge class for September 2017 and is part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership who are the proposer of the Midsomer Norton Free School (currently deferred until an appropriate site is established).
- 6.6 St Nicholas CofE Primary School was selected for expansion due to the school's proximity to the new housing developments.
- 6.6.1 The SOP states "Where possible existing schools should be expanded."
- 6.6.2 There are insufficient school places in the Radstock area to accommodate the children generated by the housing developments and the underlying population growth.
- 6.7 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 at Freshford Primary School as it is the nearest school to the housing development which has provided the S106 capital contribution for primary provision in the area.
- 7.2 No other options were considered at St Nicholas CofE Primary School as the expansion of school is required due to pupils generated from housing development adjacent to the school and in the locality.
- 7.3 No other options were considered at Longvernal Primary School as the School agreed to take the bulge class and is in the area of need where pupil numbers are increasing due to housing development.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 PIDs were presented to and approved by Divisional Directors.

8.2 The School Organisation Manager is supportive of the proposals and has reviewed this report.

8.3 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted, is supportive of the projects and has reviewed this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issues and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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

Contact person	<i>Anne Leach 01225 395351</i>
Background papers	<u>Council Budget Report 2017-18</u> <i>(Agenda Reports Pack, Public Reports Pack at page 59)</i> <u>Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-2019</u>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	