

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E2965

**Schools Capital Projects at Freshford CofE Primary,
Longvernal Primary and St Nicholas CofE Primary Schools**

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| Decision maker | Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services |
| The Issue | Increasing pupil numbers, mainly due to housing development, will require three primary schools to enhance or expand their current accommodation. |
| Decision Date | 15 May 2017 |
| The decision | <p>The Cabinet Member gives full approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 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. To spend £70,000 S106 contributions secured and received from Inglenook, Primrose land and Alacan Housing Developments to provide bulge class accommodation at Longvernal Primary School.3. To spend £50,000 Basic Need Grant to provide an additional classroom space at St Nicholas CofE Primary School. |
| Rationale for decision | <p>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.</p> <p>S106 Developer Contributions received are to enhance or expand primary school provision in the area (Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Freshford).</p> <p>Basic Need grant funding is made available to local authorities to address the issue of population growth, enabling them to provide additional school places.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>St Nicholas CofE Primary School was selected for expansion due to</p> |

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| | <p>the school's proximity to the new housing developments.</p> <p>The SOP states "Where possible existing schools should be expanded."</p> <p>There are insufficient school places in the Radstock area to accommodate the children generated by the housing developments and the underlying population growth.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Financial and budget implications | <p>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.</p> <p>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. 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). Basic Need grant funding will be used at St Nicholas CofE Primary.</p> <p>The project budgets identified are in line with current cost estimates and contain project contingencies.</p> <p>At Freshford CofE Primary 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.</p> <p>For the Midsomer Norton area S106 Education Contributions were received to expand or enhance primary provision in the area from Inglenook, Primrose Land (12/02987/FUL) of £3,309.72 and from Alacan (11/01772/FUL) of £184,234 (£66,690.28 to be used for this project leaving a balance of £117,543.72).</p> |
| Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report) | Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Health and Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations. |
| Consultation undertaken | Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer. |
| How consultation was carried out | Project Initiation Document approved by Divisional Directors, Section 151 Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer. Consultation with school leadership teams and MSN Schools Partnership. |
| Other options considered | 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. |

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| | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including any dispensation granted: | <p><i>The nature of interest and whether interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an-other interest, including any conflict of interest, (as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests). Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of their staff before taking the decision.</i></p> |
| Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision: | |
| Signatures of Decision Makers | <p>Delete these red notes: NB: If a joint decision, then ALL decision makers must sign the SAME sheet</p> |
| Date of Signature | |
| Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision | |