

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 17 th March 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3052
TITLE:	Longvernal Primary School Remodelling of Existing Accommodation Phase 2	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Single Member Cabinet Decision dated 15th May 2017 Single Member Report E2965 The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-19		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Education Funding Agency deferred opening a new primary free school in Midsomer Norton until a site can be secured.
- 1.2 In order to accommodate increasing pupil numbers due to population growth generated by new housing development and to offset the impact of the deferral of the opening of the new primary free school, Longvernal Primary School accepted a one off bulge Reception class of 30 places for September 2017.
- 1.3 For September 2017 a room previously used as a nursery was converted into a Reception classroom to accommodate the bulge class. A further phase of remodelling work is required to enable the bulge class and increased pupil numbers to continue to be accommodated at the school for the next seven years.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet members are asked to:

- 2.1 Give full approval to a project budget of £672,000 to be included in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 Schools Capital Programme to expand and enhance school place provision at Longvernal Primary School.
- 2.2 Give full approval to spend £672,000 Section 106 (S106) Developer Contributions already received by the Council to complete the capital project.

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 Provisional approval of £300,000 to provide primary school bulge class accommodation in the Midsomer Norton Area was given in the Council's 2017-18 Budget Report. The budget required of £672,000 will improve facilities and provide the classroom enhancement required to enable the school to take the bulge, and once it has moved through, they would have six classrooms and be able to increase their PAN permanently from 20 to 25, giving them a Capacity of 175.
- 3.3 The project is to be fully funded by S106 contributions received by the Council. The bulge class accommodation and internal remodelling of the school is required due to population growth generated by new housing development.
- 3.4 S106 contributions have been received by the Council to expand or enhance primary age provision in the Midsomer Norton area:
- (1) £16,841 12/01454/FUL Towerhurst received 19.03.2013.
 - (2) £117,543.72 11/01772/FUL Alcan received 11.01.13.
 - (3) £537,615.28 13/00127/OUT Fosseway South received 11.01.16.
- 3.5 The project budget identified is in line with current cost estimates and contains project contingency.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places are available for their area to provide primary and secondary education.
- 4.2 The Council undertakes to ensure school buildings are fit for purpose and provide safe secure environments.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 A new primary free school was originally due to open in Midsomer Norton for September 2017. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) deferred opening until a site can be secured.
- 5.2 Population growth and housing development have resulted in increased pupil numbers and the need for additional primary school places in the Midsomer Norton area.
- 5.3 Longvernal Primary School, an academy and part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, originally set its PAN at 20 for Reception admissions in 2017. They subsequently increased this number to 25 and then in addition agreed to provide an extra 30 places as a bulge class for September 2017 in order to accommodate additional pupils generated from housing development in the area. For September 2018 the school have increased their PAN to work to an admission number of 30.

- 5.4 Due to tight timescales to deliver the bulge accommodation in time for September 2017 the capital project to expand and enhance the school's accommodation was broken down into two phases.
- 5.5 The first phase 1, funded by S106 contributions received, converted a room that was previously used as a nursery into a classroom to accommodate the bulge Reception class. The funding for this phase of works was approved as a [Single Member Cabinet Decision](#) on 15th May 2017. Phase 1 is now complete.
- 5.6 The school has five undersized classrooms for the increased numbers and limited breakout/SEN space, staff room and meeting room facilities. Creating the Reception classroom at phase 1 further reduced teaching space and the additional pupils and staff cannot be accommodated beyond September 2018 in the existing school accommodation as it currently stands.
- 5.7 It was anticipated that following completion of phase 1 further remodelling and enhancement of facilities would be required. ([See 3.5 of the Single Member Report E2965.](#))
- 5.8 Phase 2 of the capital project proposes to infill an internal courtyard area to provide pupil and staff toilets, hygiene room, SEN/Medical room and staff room. The spaces released by infilling the courtyard would allow the existing classrooms to all be enlarged to accommodate up to 30 children in each classroom to Building Bulletin 103 (BB103) current government area guidelines for mainstream schools.
- 5.9 Longvernal Primary would have, on completion of the project, six classrooms to BB103 guidelines and the additional facilities it requires to accommodate the bulge class and increasing pupil numbers in the area. Once the bulge class has moved through, the school would have six classrooms and be able to increase their PAN permanently from 20 to 25, giving them a Capacity of 175.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The Council retains the 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 The Council undertakes to ensure school buildings are fit for purpose and provide safe and secure environments.
- 6.3 S106 contributions received are to be spent expanding or enhancing primary school provision in the area.
- 6.4 The additional primary school places needed are required due to pupils generated by new housing development. The project will be fully funded by S106.
- 6.5 [The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-19](#) (SOP) indicates the Council's Educational Strategies and Criteria for provision of school places as a result of new housing development or underlying population growth.
- 6.6 To facilitate sustainable methods of transport to school and keep home to school transport costs to a minimum and to aid parental preference, as stated in the SOP.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None. There was an absolute requirement for additional school places in the Midsomer Norton Area due to the planned new primary free school not being delivered by the Education Funding Agency for September 2017.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A Project Initiation Document (PID) was presented to and approved by Divisional Directors on 13th February 2018.
- 8.2 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted, is supportive of the project and has reviewed this report.
- 8.3 The School Organisation Manager is supportive of the proposal and has reviewed this report.
- 8.4 The s151 and Monitoring Officers have had opportunity to review and input into 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.

Contact person	<i>Anne Leach</i>
Background papers	Single Member Cabinet Decision dated 15th May 2017 Single Member Report E2965 The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-19
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