

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 26 April 2022	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:  E 3347
TITLE:	<b>Determination of the Statutory Notice to Enlarge St Keyna Primary School</b>	
WARD:	Keynsham East; Keynsham North; Keynsham South; Saltford	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Appendix 1 Representation Responses Report		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Following publication of the statutory notice proposing the enlargement of St Keyna Primary School to create additional pupil places, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture is asked to consider the responses received during the representation period and the evidence for the proposed expansion and to determine the statutory notice.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Cabinet Member is asked to;**

- 2.1 Approve the enlargement of St Keyna Primary School to 420 places from 1 September 2024.

### 3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area. School places should where possible be provided in popular and successful schools serving the area of need, in order to increase parental choice, contribute to raising educational standards and attainment and to facilitate sustainable methods of travel to school.
- 3.2 Pupil numbers in the Keynsham & Saltford Primary School Planning Area (the Planning Area) are increasing due to higher birth rates and increased population growth in general and from new housing development under construction and planned for the future. Pupil projection figures indicate that in the future there will be insufficient places available in the Planning Area to meet local demand and

additional places are projected to be required in Keynsham for Reception admissions in September 2024 onwards.

- 3.3 St Keyna Primary School currently has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 and a capacity of 240, made up of 210 permanent places and 30 temporary 'bulge class' places. The proposal is to permanently expand the school from 1 September 2024 onwards by 30 extra places per year group to have a PAN of 60 and a total capacity of 420 places.
- 3.4 St Keyna Primary School has an Ofsted rating of Good. The school is popular with parents and is regularly oversubscribed. As at the October 2021 School Census there were 238 pupils on roll. As the school is a Community school, it applies universal admissions criteria, facilitating access to the school for local children.
- 3.5 The school is located within a residential area allowing for reasonable ease of access on foot or by cycling, via non-hazardous routes i.e. along pavements and paths.
- 3.6 There is sufficient land available to accommodate the enlargement. As part of the expansion, the adjacent area of education reserve land currently being used informally by the school will be added permanently to the school site to enlarge it.
- 3.7 Other schools in the area have either already been expanded permanently, taken temporary 'bulge' classes or are not suitable for expansion as there is insufficient space available.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 contains the six representation responses received during the four week consultation period. Three responses were in support of the proposal and three were objections.
- 3.9 Concerns and objections centred on the impact on children already at the school, outside space at St Keyna, travel across Keynsham, value for money, issues concerning highways, parking and traffic congestion, construction traffic and the impact on Castle Primary school.
- 3.10 *Impact on children already at the school:* St Keyna is a good school. The factors that are likely to impact positively on children's education, general well-being and care are effective leadership, management and teaching. This is the case both throughout the construction process itself and beyond, if St Keyna goes forward as a larger school.
- 3.11 *Outside space at St Keyna:* The expanded school would have sufficient outside space for play and sport to meet the curriculum needs of a 420 place school. This would include an area of habitat 'wild' land.
- 3.12 *Travel across Keynsham:* Over time, as the population from new housing becomes established and as the newly built schools fill up, it would be expected that children living in the Planning Area would eventually attend whatever was their closest school and not have to travel across the area. If we do not have enough places in the area, travel would have to be to schools a much greater distance away completely outside the area, generating more and longer private journeys by car or resulting in the Council having to pay for home to school transport.
- 3.13 *Value for money:* Basic Need projects are subject to thorough scrutiny in order to achieve the best value for money possible. All new primary school places that have been funded to date and also those via this proposal, are projected to be

required going into the future and represent a necessary investment in school infrastructure to support the significant new housebuilding taking place in Keynsham.

- 3.14 *Issues concerning highways, parking and traffic congestion:* A planning application for the enlargement would be submitted as part of the public planning application process, which allows for comments to be submitted and to be considered when determining the planning application. A travel and transport consultant would be engaged and provide professional advice on transport matters relating to the development proposals, including recommendations regarding mitigation. This may include assisting the school in developing their travel plan which would explore opportunities to support parents in choosing alternative home to school travel options to enable as many pupils as possible to walk or cycle to school and ways of reducing the impact of journeys made by car.
- 3.15 *Construction traffic:* Construction traffic during the build would be managed to ensure the safety of all pupils and public.
- 3.16 *The impact on Castle Primary school:* Latest pupil projection figures for the Planning Area indicate that for Reception admissions in 2024 there will be approximately 335 pupils, in 2025 344 Reception pupils and in 2026 338. Without the St Keyna expansion there will only be 330 Reception places in the Planning Area, meaning there would be a shortfall and some children would have to be educated elsewhere completely outside of the area. In addition to the number of places projected to be filled, the Council also needs to plan to have approximately a 5% operational surplus available in each area to allow for future pupil movements into an area and in-year admissions. If there were only 330 places, it would mean that there would be no places available to accommodate any future children moving into the area. Ideally the spare places in a Planning Area would be spread evenly across all schools, however it is not possible to control this. Pupil numbers in this area are projected to keep increasing over the coming years due to higher birth rates, pupils generated from new housing developments and general population growth. Therefore, there are projected to be sufficient future pupils in the Planning Area to provide sustainable numbers at all primary schools locally into the foreseeable future, including Castle.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Education Act 1996 - the Local Authority is under a statutory duty to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 The capital budget for the building work required was fully approved via an Officer Delegated Decision on 2 March 2022. Capital costs for the enlargement building works are estimated to be approximately £5.06m, to be met from the Department for Education (DfE) Education Basic Need Capital Grant and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.
- 5.2 Revenue funding will be provided by the government through the Direct Schools Grant on a per pupil basis. The increased pupils will create additional funding for schools direct costs and also provide additional resources for support functions that support all schools.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 The report author and Lead Cabinet Member have fully reviewed the risk assessment. Significant risks identified are:
- 6.3 If action is not taken to create more primary school places in Keynsham, there is projected to be a future shortfall and insufficient places available in the Planning Area to meet the projected demand. This would result in the Council being unable to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient schools and to provide sufficient places.
- 6.4 If sufficient places are not created close to where they are needed this could lead to unsustainable travel to school arrangements for families having to travel longer distances to go outside of the Planning Area in which they live to access a school place for their children elsewhere. In some instances, this could lead to increased costs to the Council as a result of having to fund home to school transport due to the distance being excessive and/or the route exceptionally hazardous. Also, this could contribute to increasing journeys made by private car and to carbon emissions. Also, the negative social impact of children having to travel outside of their local area to go to school.
- 6.5 If additional school places are not created there is projected to be insufficient places available to accommodate both the children generated from the new housing in the future and for existing local children.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.
- 7.2 Religion/belief: Additional places are proposed to be created in a Community school which has a universal admissions policy, meaning there is equal access for those with different religious beliefs and those with no religious beliefs.
- 7.3 Socio-economically disadvantaged: Local school places provided where it is as easy as possible for children to walk or cycle to school, removing the need for car ownership and use or to pay for home to school public transport to get to school.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 The new accommodation will be provided in a permanent building, with carbon reduction incorporated into the design and construction to give improved energy efficiency. It will be built to Passivhaus standard, meaning that it will be a sustainable low energy building that will be cost effective to run.
- 8.2 Providing additional places in the local Planning Area close to where children live will support sustainable methods of travel to school such as walking or cycling. as it will not be necessary to travel outside of the area to get to school, thus helping to reduce carbon emissions.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 *To not enlarge the school and not create any additional places.* This option was rejected as pupil projections indicate a future shortfall of primary school places in

this area of the Authority if action is not taken to add more places. The Local Authority is under a statutory duty to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area. These schools should be located in the area of need and will help to promote diversity and increase parental choice.

9.2 *To enlarge other schools rather than St Keyna Primary.* This option was rejected as St Keyna represents the best candidate for expansion in Keynsham due to its good standards, popularity and available space. Also, other schools in the area have either already been expanded or do not lend themselves to expansion due to site constraints.

9.3 *To build a new 210 place school rather than enlarge the existing school.* This option was rejected as where there is an existing school that can be expanded, as is the case here, this should be done first. Also, one 420 place school is more cost effective to operate than two 210 place schools.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 Consultees include: The school Governing Body; Headteacher; parents and carers of pupils at the school; school staff; Headteachers of other primary and secondary schools in the area; Local Multi Academy Trust CEOs; Neighbouring Early Years provider; Local Ward Councillors; Keynsham Town Council; Local MP; Trade Unions representing school staff; the Church of England Diocese; the Catholic Diocese; Leader of the Council; Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture; Children, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Chair; S151 Officer; Monitoring Officer; Education and Safeguarding Director; School Improvement; Education Finance; Human Resources; Schools Capital; Admissions & Transport; Special Educational Needs & Disabilities; Early Years; Health Safety & Wellbeing.

10.2 On 3 March 2022 the statutory notice was published in a local newspaper serving the area and the full proposal was published on the Council's website, together with an online consultation facility to allow the public to submit comments. The consultation ran for four weeks from 3 March 2022 to 31 March 2022.

10.3 An email containing a link to the information on the Council's website was sent to the school for the attention of the Headteacher and the Governing Body. The school was asked to inform all parents and carers of children at the school and all staff that the statutory notice was published and where the full proposal and the means to comment on it could be accessed. The school emailed all parents and carers this information and also all school staff.

10.4 This information was also emailed to all the organisations and individuals named in 10.1 above.

10.5 The full proposal explained how comments could be submitted to the Council and the deadline for receipt of comments. This gave interested stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposal and for these comments to be taken into account by the Decision Maker when determining the proposal.

10.6 The eventual planning application for the building works required for the enlargement to the premises would follow the usual statutory planning process, allowing for the normal public consultation.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<p>Bath and North East Somerset Council School Organisation Plan 2019 – 2025. Available on the Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council website at: <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/pupil-place-planning-school-organisation-plans">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/pupil-place-planning-school-organisation-plans</a></p> <p>Statutory Notice Full Proposal to Enlarge St Keyna Primary School. Available on the Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council website at <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/stkeynaexpansion">www.bathnes.gov.uk/stkeynaexpansion</a></p>
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