

PREScribed ALTERATION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **17th April 2012**

From: **Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning,
Children and Young People's Services (CYPS)**

Electoral division(s): **King's Hedges, Cambridge**

Forward Plan ref: **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with plans to increase the size of The Grove Community Primary School to provide a total of 420 places, by increasing its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 30 to 60 with effect from 1st September 2012.**

Recommendation: **Cabinet are asked to:**

- a) note the demographic forecast for Reception places for September 2012 and beyond;**
- b) note the fact that one written response was received to the statutory notice published on 20th January 2012; and**
- c) approve the prescribed alteration to increase the size of The Grove Community Primary School to provide a total of 420 places, with effect from 1st September 2012.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact:</i>	
Name:	Sian Phillips	Name:	Councillor David Harty
Post:	Education Officer (Policy, Planning and Review)	Portfolio:	Learning
Email:	Sian.phillips@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	David.Harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 699796	Tel:	01223 699173

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state-funded sector. The Council's policy is to admit children into the Reception year in the September following their fourth birthday; children become of school age once they reach the age of five.
- 1.1.2 The data which the Council receives from the National Health Service (NHS) on the number of children, aged 0-4, who have been born and are registered with the NHS in Cambridgeshire, is updated twice a year. This data informs the pupil forecasts for specific areas of the County and for individual schools. These forecasts inform the planning of the future provision of school places.
- 1.1.3 Since 2008, the County Council has faced significant demographic pressure on primary school places in Cambridge. This increased demand started in the north of the City and then concentrated in the south in 2010 and 2011. A series of measures were put in place to meet that demand.
- 1.1.4 The NHS data continues to be monitored closely and significant additional forecast demand for school places has been identified in the north of Cambridge for the school year beginning September 2012 and subsequent years. A table setting out the relevant information is attached as **Appendix 1** and a map showing the catchment areas for the primary schools in north of the City is attached as **Appendix 2**.

1.2 Specific proposal

- 1.2.1 To enable the increase in demand for places in the north of Cambridge to be met in September 2012, it is proposed that The Grove County Primary School's annual intake figure for Reception-aged children, or PAN, should be increased from 30 (providing one form of entry) to 60 (providing two forms of entry). This means that the school's overall capacity would increase from 210 pupil places to 420. This increase would take place over a number of years, starting with one additional Reception class in 2012.
- 1.2.3 The Grove's buildings were originally designed to accommodate 420 children, but this number of places has not been needed in recent years. Therefore, new building is not required but arrangements are being developed with the headteacher and the governing body to improve and update the school's accommodation on a phased basis to enable this expansion to take place.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Forecast demand for places

- 2.1.1 The demand for additional primary school places in the north of Cambridge has been growing at a more gradual pace than in the south of the City, and the following measures have been taken, so far, to meet that need:

- Orchard Park Community Primary School's PAN was increased from 15 to 30 from September 2011 to meet the demand in its catchment area;
 - In May 2011, Cabinet approved the increase in the PAN of St Laurence Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School from 35 to 45, from September 2012, to meet denominational need and contribute to meeting the general demand for primary school places.
- 2.1.2 The NHS data indicates that pressure on Reception places will continue to increase year-on-year from September 2012, with a total of four forms of entry needed in the north of Cambridge between 2012 and 2014.
- 2.1.3 The primary admissions process for September 2012 is currently taking place. This indicates that the actual demand for places in north Cambridge closely matches the forecast, and that the additional form of entry at The Grove is required to meet this need.

2.2 Meeting future need

- 2.2.1 The best means of providing the additional places required in 2013 and 2014 is being explored at present with schools and local members, and proposals will be brought forward to Cabinet for determination at the appropriate time. The approach being taken is to provide an incremental increase in places to meet this demand when it is required.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most

- 3.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority. The proposal is aimed at meeting a basic need for school places.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities

- 3.2.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

- 3.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.4 Ways of working

- 3.4.1 The Council has worked in partnership with the headteacher and governing body of The Grove and with the schools in north Cambridge to put forward this proposal. Work will continue with the schools in north Cambridge, both individually and collectively (via the CB4 Aspire Group), to develop the proposals required to meet future demand.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource and Performance Implications

- 4.1.1 The Council is developing a phased approach with the headteacher and

governing body of The Grove Community Primary School to improve and update the school accommodation which is currently not in use. The capital cost of this work will be met from the Children and Young People's capital programme. The cost of the initial phase is £190,000. The future work necessary will be costed and included on a phased basis via the annual reviews of the capital programme.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

- 4.2.1 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration to The Grove Primary School, described above, was published in the appropriate local newspaper, the Cambridge News, on 20th January 2012, and the statutory notice period expired on 24th February 2012 (**see Appendix 3**).
- 4.2.2 One response to the published proposal was received. This was from Sam Lee, a local resident, enquiring whether there were any plans to alter the infrastructure of The Grove Primary School site, or the surrounding area, to accommodate the increase in the number of vehicles that would be dropping off children or parking. Ms Lee was informed that, as The Grove was originally designed as a 420-place school, the current site and parking facilities were of a size to accommodate the requirements of the expanded provision. For this reason, there were no plans to increase the external infrastructure. However, Ms Lee was also informed that the school's travel-to-school plan would be looked at in more detail in the near future as part of the development plan for the expansion. Residents' views about the current parking difficulties and their concerns relating to the proposed increase in the number of children would be fed into that review.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.3.1 A duty of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 is that local authorities should take account of the needs of all communities when planning educational provision.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation

- 4.4.1 Discussions have taken place over an extended period of time with the headteacher and governing body of The Grove. Officers attended meetings of the full governing body specifically on this matter, initially in 2009 and then on 23rd November 2011. The headteacher and governing body are committed to the proposal to expand the school.
- 4.4.2 The Council has complied with all requirements, informal and statutory, relating to consultation on this proposal. For the informal consultation, a detailed letter setting out the background to the proposal was circulated to all parents and staff at The Grove, the local County Councillor and to other local stakeholders on 29 November 2011. No comments were received in response to that letter.
- 4.4.3 For the statutory consultation, the Council arranged for the publication of the notice in the Cambridge News, the local newspaper, and for the notice to be placed on public display at the school and in at least one other venue in the local area. Copies of the notice were sent to the following consultees:

- Member of Parliament
- Local County Councillors and Cambridge City Council
- Trades Unions
- Local primary, secondary and special schools
- Diocese of Ely
- Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia
- Department for Education: School Collaboration, Organisation and Fair Access Division.

Source Documents	Location
Prescribed Alteration documents	Children And Young People's Services Strategy and Commissioning: Infrastructure Box No: CC1209 2nd Floor B Wing Castle Court Castle Hill Cambridge CB3 0AP

Appendix 1

Number of children born in each primary school's catchment area in North Cambridge compared with the currently-agreed Published Admission Numbers (PANs): NHS Child Health Register data – age as at 31 August 2011 (December 2011 download)

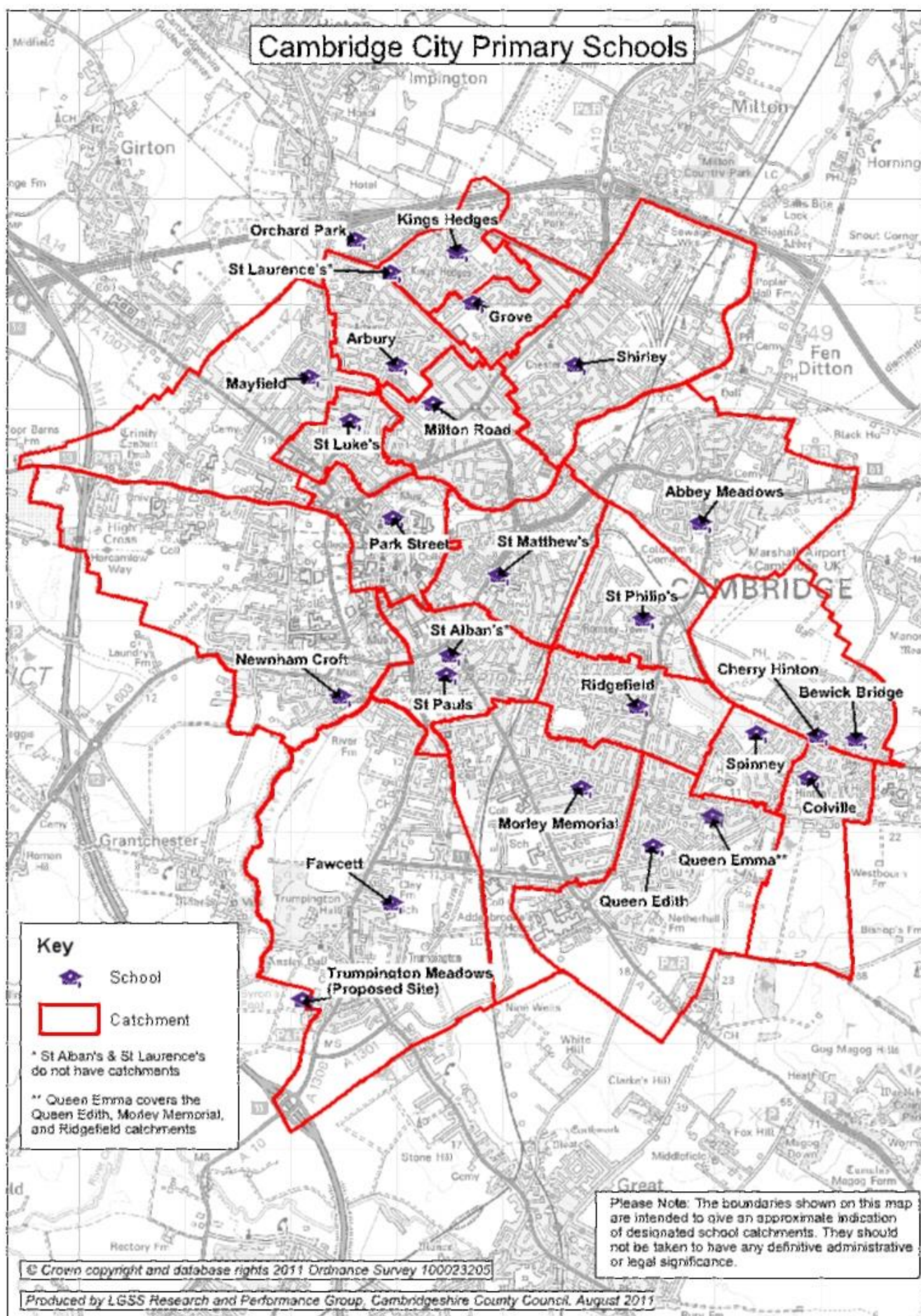
Child Health Register Data/ Schools	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-13	Sep-14	Sep-15	PANs SEP 2011	PANs SEP 2012
North of Cambridge							
Arbury (CP) ¹	75	90	74	105	75	60	60
Grove (CP)	32	67	76	69	73	30	30 ²
King's Hedges (CP)	59	71	79	99	80	60	60
Mayfield (CP)	57	60	63	55	49	60	60
Milton Road (CP)	90	72	92	80	91	60	60
Orchard Park (CP)	32	35	30	42	52	30	30
Shirley(CP)	102	108	125	136	141	60	60
St Laurence RC (VA) ³						35	45
St Luke's CE (VA)	64	51	57	77	68	30	30
Sub-total	511	554	596	663	629	425	435
83% *(See note below.)	424	460	495	550	522		
Children/PAN +/- (83%) - without adjustment to the Grove PAN	1	-25	-60	-115	-87		

***Note:** 83% is the five-year rolling average pupil arrival rate for Cambridge City as a whole, on which school-place planning is based. This takes account of movement in and out of the City and of education in the independent sector.

¹ CP – Community Primary; RC VA – Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided; CE VA – Church of England Voluntary Aided.

² This proposal would increase The Grove's PAN to 60, providing a total of 465 Reception places in the north of Cambridge.

³ As a Roman Catholic VA school, St Laurence does not have a specific catchment area.



**Cambridgeshire County Council
Statutory Notice for the Expansion of
The Grove Community Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Cambridgeshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to The Grove Community Primary School, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2NB, from 01 September 2012.

The current capacity of the school is 295 places and the proposed capacity will be 420 places. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 166. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

The Grove's buildings were originally designed to accommodate 420 children, but this number of places has not been needed in recent years. Arrangements are being developed to update and improve the school's accommodation to take additional children.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Sian Phillips, whose contact details are set out below.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to:

Sian Phillips, Education Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box CC1209, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.

E-mail: sian.phillips@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 699796.

Signed: Adrian Loades
 Executive Director
 Children and Young People's Services

Publication Date: 20 January 2012