

**PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF PECKOVER
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, WISBECH**

To: Cabinet

Date: 22 February 2011

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

Electoral division(s): Roman Bank & Peckover

Forward Plan ref: 2011/008 *Key decision:* No

Purpose: To seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with plans to increase the size of Peckover Community Primary School to provide a total of 420 places, through the addition of four permanent classrooms, with effect from 1 September 2011.

Recommendation: Members are asked to:

- (a) Note the demographic forecast for Reception places for September 2011 and beyond;
- (b) Note the fact that no responses were received to the statutory notice published on 5 January 2011; and
- (c) Approve the prescribed alteration to increase the size of Peckover Community Primary School to provide a total of 420 places, through the addition of four permanent classrooms, with effect from 1 September 2011.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact</i>
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There are eight schools in the town of Wisbech serving the primary age range, two infant schools, two junior schools and four all-through primary schools.
- 1.2 Peckover Community Primary School is one of the four all-through primary schools in Wisbech. The Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school is 45, and it has an operational capacity of 315 places. The total number of children on roll at the school has been steadily rising, with numbers increasing to 297 in September 2010, 18 places below full capacity.
- 1.3 The Council has developed plans to increase the size of Peckover Community Primary School to provide 60 places for pupils entering Reception and a total of 420 places across all seven year groups on a permanent basis through the provision of four new classrooms and ancillary accommodation. This change, if approved, would be effective from 1 September 2011.
- 1.4 Although the PAN for the school is 45, for the last two years the school has been asked to admit a greater number of children to Reception, in response to increased demand for places from the surrounding area. While projected numbers are lower than usual within the Peckover catchment area for September 2011, projections indicate higher demand across the town from September 2011 onwards. The proposed expansion of Peckover would continue to contribute to meeting this demand. Proposals for meeting the longer term demand for primary school places in Wisbech are being developed.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Consultation

- 2.1.1 In November 2010, the Council issued a consultation paper setting out a proposal to expand Peckover Community Primary School from 315 places (1.5FE - forms of entry) to 420 places (2FE) with effect from 1 September 2011. This was circulated to parents/carers of children at the school, schools in the area and all other statutory consultees - see 3.5.1 below.
- 2.1.2 Plans for the new accommodation have been displayed at the school, in order to give the community a chance to comment on the proposal.
- 2.1.3 There were four representations made to the Council during the consultation period. There was a letter of support from the local member who thought that the proposal was well-thought out, and would bring benefit to the area and the school. The other three representations made no objection to the proposal.

2.2 School Admissions Code

- 2.2.1 The School Admissions Code (February 2009) tasks admission authorities to consider the overall effect on a school of continually admitting pupils over PAN. In cases where more than 26 children are admitted above the PAN for three years in a row, then the admissions authority must determine a higher PAN at the next opportunity.

2.2.2 Whilst the number of children that have been admitted to Peckover Community Primary School in the last two years has not been as high as the trigger point of 26 children, it is appropriate to increase the size of the school on a permanent basis and provide it with the accommodation necessary to sustain a 2FE intake, in response to demand for places in the town.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resources and Performance

3.1.1 The Council has developed proposals to provide additional accommodation at Peckover Community Primary School. The total capital cost will be met from the basic need allocation made to the Council by the Department for Education. The scheme is included in the Children and Young People's capital programme for 2010/2011.

3.2 Statutory Requirements and Partnership Working

3.2.1 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration described above was published in the appropriate local newspaper, The Cambs Times, on 5 January 2011, and the statutory notice period expired on 2 February 2011 (**see Appendix 1**). There were no representations made during that period.

3.3 Climate Change

3.3.1 The Council's current policy is for all newly-commissioned Council buildings to meet the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'very good' standard, with an aspiration to achieve 'excellent'. In the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy, a public commitment has been made to develop a new minimum standard for all newly-commissioned buildings. This will ensure that the Council is prepared for the implementation of the Government's zero carbon standards for new schools, which come into effect in 2016, and for other buildings, which come into effect in 2018.

3.4 Access and Inclusion

3.4.1 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.

3.5 Engagement and Consultation

3.5.1 The Council has complied with all the statutory requirements in respect of consultation in relation to these proposals. This includes the publication of a notice in a 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:

- Fenland District Council
- Member of Parliament
- Local member
- Trade Unions

- Local primary and secondary Schools
- Roman Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Boards
- Department for Education (formerly the Department for Children Schools and Families) School Organisation Unit.
- Neighbouring authorities of Norfolk and Lincolnshire

Source Documents	Location
Prescribed Alteration documents School Admissions Code (February 2009)	Children And Young People's Services Strategy and Commissioning: Infrastructure Box No: CC1209 2nd Floor B Wing Castle Court Castle Hill Cambridge CB3 0AP

Cambridgeshire County Council

**Statutory Notice for the Expansion of
Peckover 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 Peckover Community Primary School, Leverington Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 1PJ from 01 September 2011.

The expansion will add four new classrooms to the existing school buildings. The current capacity of the school is 315 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 297. The current admission number for the school is 45 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: David Clark, Assistant Education Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council. E-mail: david.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 699782.

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 David Clark, Assistant Education Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box CC1209, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.
E-mail: david.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 699782.

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

Publication Date: 5 January 2011