

CHANGES TO THE PUBLISHED ADMISSIONS NUMBER FOR HEMINGFORD GREY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

To: Cabinet

Date: 15 January 2013

From: Executive Director: Children and Young People’s Services and Adult Social Care

Electoral division(s): St Ives; The Hemingfords and Fenstanton

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key Decision:** No

Purpose: To seek Cabinet’s approval to proceed with plans to:

i) Increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Thorndown Primary School from 60 to 90 with effect from 1st September 2013, enabling the school to provide 630 places (an increase from 2 Forms of Entry (FE) to 3FE); and

ii) Increase the PAN of Hemingford Grey Primary School from 30 to 45 with effect from 1 September 2013, enabling the school to provide a total of 315 places (an increase from 1FE to 1.5FE).

Recommendations: Members are asked to:

a) Note the statutory process undertaken to change the PAN for each school and that no responses have been received to the statutory notices published during the autumn term 2012; and

b) Approve the combined notice for the expansion of both schools, in order to provide a total of 315 additional places across the town of St Ives and the village of Hemingford Grey.

| | Officer Contact: | | Member Contact: |
|--------|--|------------|--|
| Name: | Ian Trafford | Name: | David Harty |
| Post: | Education Officer | Portfolio: | Cabinet Member for Learning |
| Email: | ian.trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk | Email: | david.harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |
| Tel: | 01223 699803 | Tel: | 01480 477202 |

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council, the local Children's Services Authority, 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. To achieve this, the Council has to keep the number of school places under review and to take the appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also requires local authorities to adopt a strategic role, with a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school provision.
- 1.2 Existing planning commitments in St Ives indicate that 600 houses are expected to be completed between 2011/12 and 2016/17. Additional new housing development sites to the west of St Ives are allocated in Huntingdonshire District Council's (HDC) Local Development Framework (Core Strategy), which is expected to result in a further 615 new homes being built between 2016 and 2021. The details of these housing growth sites are shown on the map in **Appendix 1** together with the location of the existing local schools. Sites 1-7 relate to the 615 new homes. The sites shown as C1-C5 are those already under construction or accounted for in the existing planning commitments.
- 1.3 A review of existing school provision in the St Ives area was launched in Spring 2012 in response to:
- the planned housing development outlined above and
 - the demographic changes taking place within the existing community.

The review set out a number of proposals to expand primary school, early years and childcare provision in the St Ives area which were the subject of detailed consultation and engagement with the local community.

- 1.4 At its meeting on 2 October 2012 Cabinet noted the views expressed during the consultation and gave its approval to proceed with proposals to increase the capacity of the following schools:
- a. Thorndown Primary School to provide an additional 210 places and additional early years and childcare provision and extend its catchment area to include housing development area C1 and the balance of land in area 5 (see Appendix 1)
 - b. Hemingford Grey Primary School to provide an additional 105 places and additional early years and childcare provision;
 - c. Eastfield Infant School to provide an additional 30 places and additional early years and childcare provision; and
 - d. Westfield Junior School to provide an additional 40 places.

Cabinet agreed that priority should be given to the expansion of Thorndown Primary School and Hemingford Grey Primary School as the proposals for these schools provided the highest number of additional places within the area covered by the review. They are also situated closest to where the majority of the new housing development will take place. A summary of the full proposals

agreed by Cabinet is contained in **Appendix 2**.

- 1.5 Cabinet also approved the use of £11.1m of the exceptional Basic Need funding of £12,469,228 awarded to the Council in April 2012 to support the implementation of the proposals outlined above.

2.0 PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO EXPAND THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HEMINGFORD GREY PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 2.1 On 31 October 2012, the Council published a combined statutory notice to make a prescribed alteration to increase the capacity at both Thorndown Primary School and Hemingford Grey Primary School with effect from 1st September 2013. A copy is attached in **Appendix 3**. The notice expired on 28 November 2012, by which time no responses were received. However, there was previously a good response to the public consultation meetings held during the course of the review when the proposals relating to the expansion of the primary schools, pre-schools and the replacement of temporary buildings were generally supported.
- 2.2 Cabinet is recommended to approve the implementation of the published proposals.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most

Providing access to local primary education and childcare services will ensure that services delivered through the schools will meet the demands of those families within the respective catchment areas.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities

If children and families have access to local schools and associated children's services, they are more likely to attend them by either walking or cycling rather than using their own cars or local authority-provided transport. They will also be able to more readily access out of school activities such as sport and homework clubs and develop friendship groups within their own community. This will contribute to the development of both healthier and more independent lifestyles.

3.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

Providing access to local and high quality education and associated children's services will enhance the skills of the local workforce, provide essential childcare services for working parents or those seeking to return to work. Schools and pre-schools are providers of local employment.

3.4 Ways of Working

The proposals reflect the Council's strategic role as a commissioner of high quality services, rather than a direct provider of those services, and work to build constructive partnerships with the providers of early years and childcare

services across St Ives.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resources and Performance

- 4.1.1 The proposals (as set out in Appendix 2) for the expansion of primary school and childcare services for St Ives and Hemingford Grey require capital funding in the region of £19m. £5.5m of this funding is expected to come from developer contributions (S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding), £1.3m of which has already been secured and has been allocated in the current capital programme in 2013/14 to Thorndown Primary School (£500,000) and Hemingford Grey Primary School (£800,000). £11.1m of the £12,469,228 additional basic need funding allocated to the Council by Government in April 2012 will be used to support the implementation of the capital schemes at Thorndown and Hemingford Grey Primary Schools in accordance with the decision of Cabinet on 2nd October 2012 (subject to the approval of the full capital programme by full Council).
- 4.1.2 The investment required for the proposed capital projects at Eastfield Infant School, Westfield Junior School and Wheatfields Primary School are included in the new year five (2017/18) of the Children and Young People's Services capital programme.

4.2 Statutory Risk and Legal Implications

- 4.2.1 The Council has published statutory notices to give effect to each individual school proposal which has been followed by a consultation period of 4 weeks. No representations were made during this time.

4.3 Equality and Diversity implications

- 4.3.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are able to attend their local mainstream school where possible, with only those children with the most complex and challenging needs requiring places at specialist provision.
- 4.3.2 The new buildings, and expansion of existing buildings, will fully comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and current County Council standards.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

- 4.4.1 A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken from 1 March and 4 May 2012, which included, a series of public meetings held in each of the schools directly affected during March 2012. Offers were also made to meet directly with the Town and Parish Councils, however, these offers were not taken up.
- 4.4.2 A working group was formed comprising the Cabinet member for Learning and the local members representing St Ives and the surrounding villages of Hemingford, Fenstanton and Houghton. The Working Group was supported by

officers from CYPS Infrastructure and the Making Assets Count Team. The scope of the review and the proposals presented for consultation were developed and approved by the working group.

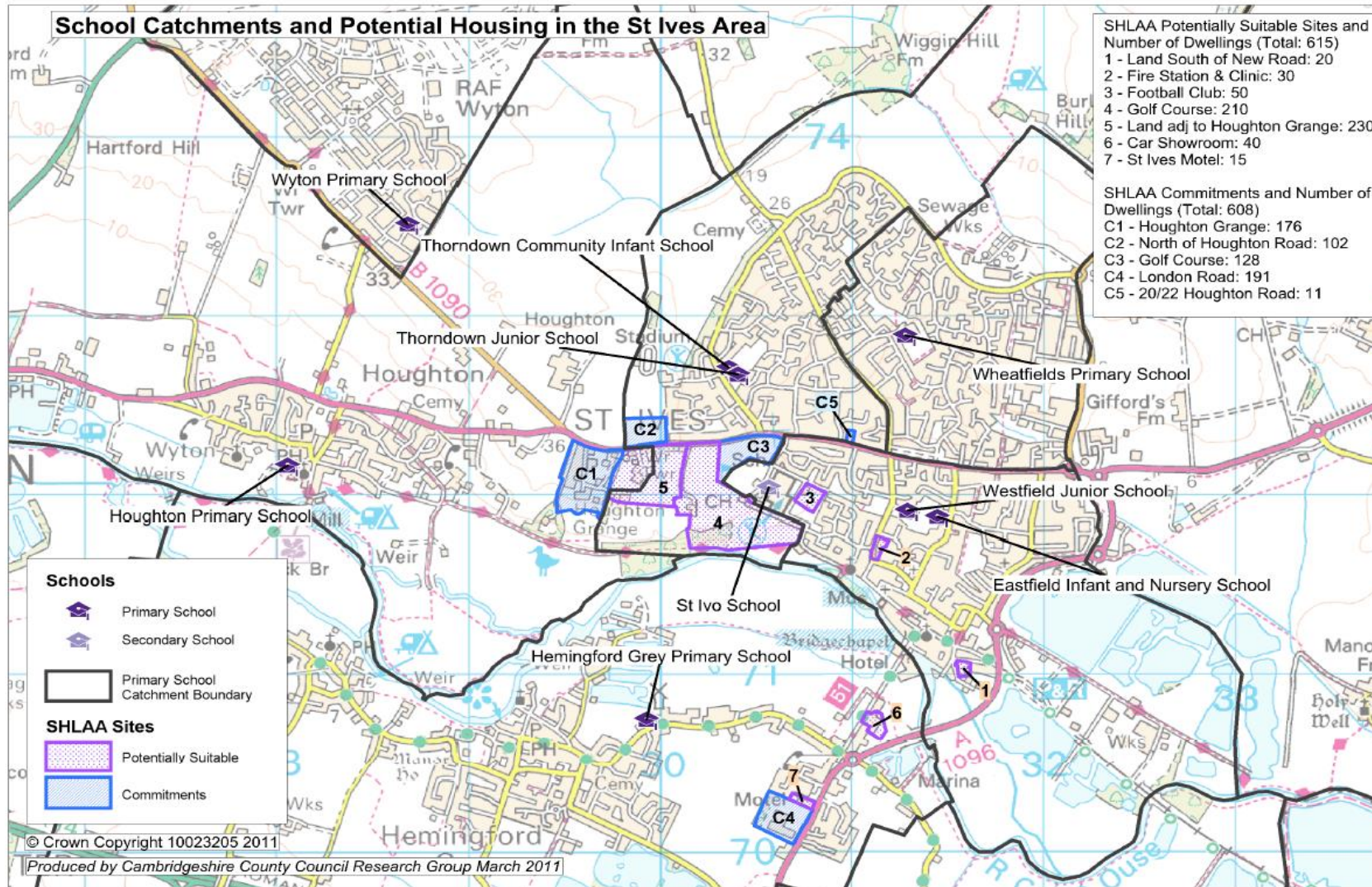
4.4.3 A further consultation period was undertaken between 31 October 2012 and 28 November 2012 as a part of the prescribed alterations process. No representations were received on the published notice.

4.5 Public Health Implications

4.5.1 The schools will be accessible to pupils as either pedestrians or cyclists. If children had to attend schools some distance away (more than 2 miles) they would be provided with free transport by the Council in accordance with its statutory duty.

| Source Documents | Location |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Organisation: The Prescribed Alteration Process • The Future Pattern of Education Provision in St Ives, Cabinet Report, 2 October 2012 • St Ives West Consultation Paper • Consultation responses • CCC research Group forecasts | Alison Cook Assistant Education Officer B202, Castle Court Cambridge |

Appendix 1 - School Catchment Areas and Potential Housing Development Sites



Appendix 2 - The Proposals

The proposals for responding to the changes taking place in the St Ives area were developed following individual discussions with each school on the understanding that implementation of any agreed changes would be subject to the identification and availability of capital infrastructure investment funding.

Thorndown Primary School

- **Expand the school on its existing site from 2FE (420 places) to 3FE (630 places) and increase the number of early years and childcare places by providing an additional 26 places for 3-4 years olds and 24 places for 2 year olds**
- Expand the catchment area for Thorndown Primary School to include the new development area C1 and the balance of land in area 5 (see Appendix 1). These areas currently fall within the catchment area for Houghton Primary School which is some distance away. Placing these development areas within the catchment area for Thorndown Primary School would place the future children living there within the catchment area for St Ivo Academy, which is much closer and within easy walking distance.
- Expand the pre-school service provided by Pavilion Playgroup, which currently provides 35 morning and 35 afternoon places (a total of 70 places), to provide 48 morning and afternoon places (96 places in total). In addition to this, 12 morning and 12 afternoon places (a total of 24 places) would be created for 2-year-olds.
- Replace existing unsuitable school accommodation and mobile accommodation with permanent buildings. Thorndown Primary School was created in 2011 following the decision to amalgamate the former, separate infant and junior schools, which operated from the site.

Eastfield Infant and Nursery School

- **Extend the school on its existing site from 2.7FE (240 places) to 3FE (270 places) and increase the number of early years and childcare places by providing an additional 40 places for 3-4 years olds**
- The change in intake is being proposed not only to create additional school places overall, but also to help the school with their organisation and structure. Expanding the school to 3FE, or 90 places per year group, will help to reduce the need for mixed year group teaching that the current intake of 80 pupils creates.
- The maintained nursery to be re-housed in permanent accommodation and increase the number of places for 3-4 year olds from 80 to 120.
- The school-run pre-school to be re-housed in permanent accommodation. This will allow further expansion to meet the needs of local families

requiring places for 2-year olds.

Westfield Junior School

- **Extend the school on its existing site from 2.7FE (320 places) to 3FE (360 places)**
- As with Eastfield, the change in intake is being proposed not only to create additional school places overall, but also to help the school with their organisation and structure.
- Replace mobile accommodation with permanent buildings.

Wheatfields Primary School

- **No change to the size of the school from its current 2FE (420 places) (in line with the views expressed by the school)**
- The Wheatfields site currently has two separately run pre-schools. The Burleigh Hill pre-school has capacity for 27 children and the Wheatfields pre-school has capacity for 35 children. Subject to the views of the providers, both of these services would be relocated within a redesigned joint-use permanent building. No expansion in the number of places offered is proposed.

Hemingford Grey Primary School

- **Extend the school and increase the PAN from 30 to 45 to provide 105 additional places and increase the number of early years and childcare places by providing an additional 16 places for 3-4 years olds**
- It will be necessary to do this in a phased manner, with the provision of mobile accommodation required as early as September 2013 to meet the immediate demand being replaced with permanent accommodation over time.
- Pre-school provision to be upgraded and rehoused in new, permanent buildings enabling it to increase the number of places available from 64 to 80.

St Ives Children's Centre

The Children's Centre will need to be capable of serving approximately 1700 families with children in the 0-5 age range. It will need to continue to provide a range of services as well as to provide links to health services (such as health visiting, midwifery, speech and language) and adult services (such as Job Centre Plus, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Adult and Family Learning).

The results from the consultation relating to the Children's Centre (including a

response from Wheatfields Primary School) are that it should remain on its current site. However, the total number of responses was very low.

As this is a critical service to both the existing and future community of St Ives, its future location is now being considered as part of the recently launched Making Assets Count (MAC) project for St Ives.

In preparing these proposals, detailed work has been undertaken in relation to the geographical distribution of the existing and future demand for school places, the potential for each school to expand on its existing site and the quality of the built environment from which these schools and associated services currently operate.

Wherever possible, the approach taken is that the schools in whose catchment area the new housing development and growing demand for places is taking place should increase in size to meet the extra need. This reflects environmental, community, health and economic considerations, including the aim of enabling as many children as possible to walk and cycle to school thus reducing the need for them to be transported, either by their parents or the Council. In this case, the majority of the major new developments are within either the catchment area of Thorndown Primary School or Hemingford Grey Primary School.

Appendix 3 – Combined Statutory Notice

Cambridgeshire County Council Statutory Notice for the Expansion of Thorndown Primary School, St Ives and Hemingford Grey 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 following primary schools from 1 September 2013:

- Thorndown Primary School, Hill Rise, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6SE
- Hemingford Grey Primary School, St Ives Road, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire PE28 9DU

The phased expansion at Thorndown Primary School will add new classrooms, and will include a rebuild and refurbishment of the school buildings. The school's current capacity is 420 pupils. The proposed capacity is 630 pupils. The number of pupils registered at the school is 386. The school's current published admission number is 60. The proposed published admission number is 90.

The phased expansion at Hemingford Grey Primary School will add new classrooms to the existing school buildings over a period of years. The school's current capacity is 210 pupils. The proposed capacity is 315 pupils. The number of pupils registered at the school is 218. The school's current published admission number is 30 and the proposed published admission number is 45.

Cambridgeshire County Council will implement these proposals.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals copies of which can be obtained from: Alison Cook, Assistant Education Officer e-mail: alison.cook@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 699783.

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

Alison Cook, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box No CC1209, Shire Hall CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0AP.

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

Publication Date: 31 October 2012

Explanatory Note:

Although published in a combined notice, these proposals are not related. You may respond to either proposal by:

- Supporting both proposals;
- objecting to one and supporting the other; or
- objecting to both.