

**PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

*To:* Cabinet

*Date:* 24 May 2011

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

*Electoral division(s):* Petersfield and King's Hedges

*Forward Plan ref:* 2011/024 *Key decision:* Yes

*Purpose:* To seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with plans to increase the size of two primary schools in Cambridge:

- St Matthew's Community Primary School, to provide a total of 630 places, through the addition of twelve permanent classrooms, from September 2011 ; and
- St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, to provide a total of 315 places, through the addition of two permanent classrooms, with effect from 1 September 2012.

The proposals are made in response to demographic increases leading to an increased demand for school places in Cambridge.

*Recommendation:* Members are asked to:

- a) Note the fact that the only response received to the statutory notices published on 11 March 2011, was in support of the proposal to expand St Matthew's; and
- b) Approve the prescribed alterations to increase the size of :
  - St Matthew's Community Primary School, with effect from 1 September 2011; and
  - St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, with effect from 1 September 2012.

<b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>	<b><i>Member contact</i></b>
Name: Sian Phillips Post: Education Officer Email: <a href="mailto:sian.phillips@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">sian.phillips@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01223 699796	Name: Councillor David Harty Portfolio: Learning Email: <a href="mailto:david.harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">david.harty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01480 477202

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 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 maintained sector or an Academy school. 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.
- 1.2 A series of reports were presented to the non decision making advisory Children and Young People's Policy Development Group (CYP PDG), dating from 13 November 2008, which provided detailed information about the projected demographic pressures for primary school places across Cambridgeshire due to rising birth rates.
- 1.3 The demographic forecasts used derive from information on births received from the National Health Service (NHS). The most up-to-date version of this data, based on January 2011 figures, has made it possible to identify demographic pressures at individual school and local area level up to and including the 2014/15 academic year. These demographic pressures have led to the proposal to expand to St Matthew's Community Primary School as detailed in section 2 below.
- 1.4 In addition, since May 2007, the Council has had a specific duty to respond formally to a parental representation, under the Education Act 1996, (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) in furtherance of its duty to promote choice for parents and secure diversity in the provision of schools.
- 1.5 A report was produced for the CYP PDG on 4 October 2010, seeking Members' views on the proposed action to be taken to respond to parental representations received in support of additional Roman Catholic primary school places in Cambridge. The proposal relating to expanding St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School will help address this need and is outlined in section 3 below.

## **2 PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 2.1 St Matthew's Community Primary School is a two form entry (FE) school, with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60, providing 420 primary places overall, plus 24 early years places. A form of entry is 30 places. The school is situated on a restricted site on East Road, in the south of Cambridge. As St Matthew's is a community primary school, the Council has powers to publish proposals to change its size.
- 2.2 The most significant level of demographic pressure across Cambridgeshire has been experienced in the south of Cambridge. Public consultation on the outline options for addressing this need took place during December 2009.
- 2.3 The outcome of this consultation process was presented in a report to Cabinet on 23 February 2010, and a number of recommendations to expand individual

schools were approved. The Council also held a competition for a new primary school to open in the south of the City in September 2011.

- 2.4 Reports to the CYP PDG and Cabinet also included information about the plans to expand St Matthew’s Community Primary School.
- 2.5 The number of children requiring Reception places in the St Matthew’s catchment area increases significantly from September 2011, in line with the general increase in the south of Cambridge. The latest figures for the number of children who will reach school Reception age in the September of the years shown are as follows:

<b>St Matthew’s Community Primary School</b>		<b>PAN = 60</b>		
<b>Child Health Register Data</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
100%	107	99	115	119
83% (5-year rolling average)	89	82	95	99
Children/PAN deficit	-29	-22	-35	-39

- 2.6 As indicated, St Matthew’s current annual intake figure, or PAN, is 60. As can be seen from the above table, the number of additional primary school places required in the catchment area (even on the better-case scenario of 83% of children born in the catchment area requiring a maintained school place) is near to one form of entry in 2011, at 29 places, and rises to 39 places by 2014.
- 2.7 It is proposed to expand St Matthew’s Community Primary School, to enable the school to have an annual intake of 90 pupils from September 2011, eventually providing a total of 630 places. To enable this to be done, it is planned to provide twelve additional permanent classrooms, via a phased expansion programme.
- 2.8 The addition of twelve permanent classrooms is required because the existing St Matthew’s buildings have significant condition needs. These needs were originally identified in 2008 as a priority for investment in the County Council’s five-year capital programme, as phase 1 of the Government’s Primary Capital Strategy Programme. However, as the Council had to review its capital programme in a very stringent manner in 2009, in order to fund the additional provision necessary to meet the statutory basic need for primary school places across the County, this suitability project did not proceed.
- 2.9 Detailed discussions with the governing body of St Matthew’s have enabled the original development plan to be adapted to encompass the expansion of the school to three forms of entry, to help address the additional need in the catchment area.
- 2.10 The parental body has been kept informed of the proposals and opportunities have been provided for feedback via meetings regarding the proposed design of the building.

2.11 The Council has developed proposals to provide additional accommodation at St Matthew's Community Primary School. It is planned to complete this development in two phases. The funding of £4.4 million for Phase 1 of the project is included in the Council's five-year rolling capital programme for 2011 - 2016. Construction will be through a mixture of traditional and modern methods of construction.

### **3 PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO ST LAURENCE'S VOLUNTARY AIDED ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

3.1 St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School is situated in the north of Cambridge. It currently has a PAN, or annual intake, of 35, providing up to 245 primary places overall.

3.2 As a voluntary aided primary school, the governing body has powers to publish proposals for change. As a Roman Catholic school, children are drawn from a wide area, and therefore the school does not operate with a specific catchment area. However, it does contribute to meeting the general demand for school places, and the pressure on primary school places in Cambridge is continuing, including in the north of the City.

3.3 The proposal for St Laurence's School is to raise the PAN from 35 to 45, to provide a total of 315 places, through the addition of two permanent classrooms, with effect from 1 September 2012. The proposal to raise the PAN will help address the need for additional Roman Catholic primary school places in Cambridge, as well as meeting some of the demographic pressures.

3.4 In January 2011, a consultation letter was published setting out the proposal to expand the school from 245 places to 315 places (1.5 FE) with effect from 1 September 2012. This was circulated to parents/carers of children at the school, schools in the area and all other statutory consultees - see 5.5.1 below.

3.5 Plans for the new accommodation have been displayed at the school, in order to give the community a chance to comment on the proposal. A public surgery was held at the school which attracted 24 parents who were all very supportive on the proposal.

3.6 The Council has developed proposals to provide additional accommodation at St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, with the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. The Council's contribution of £750,000 to the scheme is included in the first year of the five-year rolling capital programme for 2011 - 2016. The construction is an expansion of the existing school buildings, using mainly traditional methods of construction.

## **4. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

### **4.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most**

4.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority. The projects are aimed at meeting basic need for school places, and to help provide greater choice and diversity for parents.

## **4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives in their communities**

4.2.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

## **4.3 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

4.3.1 There are no significant implications for this priority.

## **4.4 Ways of Working**

4.4.1 The report above sets out the ways in which the Council has consulted with local communities and responded to requests for additional school places. For St Matthew's Community Primary School, this can be referenced in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3. For St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, this can be referenced in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.

## **5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Resource and Performance Implications**

5.1.1 As outlined in 2.11, the proposals to provide additional accommodation at St Matthew's Community Primary School, have been developed in two phases. Phase 1, the provision of the twelve additional classrooms, would begin in August 2011, at a cost of £4.4 million. No date has yet been set in the Council's five-year rolling capital programme for the commencement of Phase 2.

5.1.2 The Council has developed proposals to provide additional accommodation at St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, with the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia. The Council's contribution of £750,000 to this joint scheme is included in the first year of five-year rolling capital programme for 2011 - 2016.

### **5.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

5.2.1 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration at St Matthew's Community Primary School was published in the appropriate local newspaper, the Cambridge News, on 11 March 2011 (**see Appendix 1**). The statutory notice period expired on 8 April 2011. There was one written response during the representation period, which was in support of the proposal.

5.2.2 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration at St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School was published by the Governing Body in the appropriate local newspaper, the Cambridge News, on 11 March 2011 (**see Appendix 2**). The statutory notice period expired on 8 April 2011. No representations were made during the consultation period.

### **5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.4.1 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.

## 5.5 Engagement and Consultation

5.5.1 The Council, acting on behalf of St Matthew's Community Primary School, and the Governing Body of St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, have complied with all the statutory requirements in respect of consultation in relation to these proposals. This includes the publication of notices in a local newspaper, and for the notices to be placed on public display at the schools and in at least one other venue in the local area. Copies of the notices were sent to the following:

- Cambridge City Council
- Member of Parliament
- Local member
- Trade Unions
- Local primary and secondary schools
- Roman Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Boards
- Department for Education: School Collaboration, Organisation and Fair Access Division (formerly the Department for Children Schools and Families, School Organisation Unit)

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
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

## Appendix 1:

### Statutory Notice for the Expansion of St Matthew's 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 St Matthew's Community Primary School, 19 Norfolk Street, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 2LD from 1 September 2011.

There will be a phased expansion programme. The initial phase will add twelve new classrooms to the existing school buildings.

The current capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 413. The current admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: David Clark, Assistant Education Officer, see contact details below.

Details of this proposal can be found on the County Council's website at:  
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/planning/>

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](mailto:david.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 699782.

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

Publication Date:   11 March 2011

## Appendix 2:

### **Statutory Notice for the Expansion of St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School**

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School intends to make a prescribed alteration to the school in Arbury Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 2JX from 1 September 2012.

The expansion will add two new classrooms to the existing school buildings. The current capacity of the school is 245 and the proposed capacity will be 315. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 241. The current admission number for the school is 35 and the proposed admission number will be 45.

Cambridgeshire County Council will implement this proposal, details of which can be found on the Council's website at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/schools/planning/>

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, Box CC1209, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP. E-mail: [david.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto: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: Eric Smith, Clerk to the Governing Body at St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School, Arbury Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 2JX.

Signed:           Shauna DeWolf  
                      Chair of the Governing Body  
                      St Laurence's Voluntary Aided Roman Catholic Primary School

Publication Date:   11 March 2011