

PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO HARDWICK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

To: Cabinet

Date: 13th December 2011

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

Electoral division(s): Bourn and Hardwick

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

Purpose: To seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with plans to increase the size of Hardwick Community Primary School by increasing its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 105 with effect from September 2012.

The proposals are made in response to demographic pressures in Cambourne leading to an increased demand for school places. Hardwick Community Primary School will be expanded onto a second campus based in Cambourne.

Recommendation: Members are asked to:

- a) Note the response from the local County Councillors for the Bourn and Hardwick electoral divisions received in response to the statutory notice published on 3rd November 2011**
- b) Approve the prescribed alteration to increase the size of Hardwick Community Primary School by the addition of a second campus with effect from 1 September 2012**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact</i>
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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 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.
- 1.2 A report was presented to non-decision making Children and Young People's Policy Development Group (CYP PDG) in January 2011, which provided detailed information about the projected demographic pressures for primary school places in Cambourne due to a combination of rising birth rates and continued house building.
- 1.3 Anticipating the approval of planning permission for an additional 950 homes at Cambourne in December 2010, the Council's Research and Performance Team updated its pupil forecasts which identified future gap in the level of school provision. The forecasts set out in the table below take account of the information provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council and the developer on the proposed housing mix for the 950 additional homes and the housing trajectory or number of annual completions.

Sept of year	Annual Completions	Total completions	Number of children aged			4-10 FE	Reception intake FE
			0-3	4-10	11-15		
2009	205	2,703	814	1,006	517	4.8	6.1
2010	192	2,895	853	1,123	556	5.3	6.3
2011	160	3,055	848	1,252	584	6.0	7.4
2012	160	3,215	811	1,396	635	6.6	8.3
2013	160	3,375	791	1,515	689	7.2	8.0
2014	200	3,575	791	1,599	755	7.6	7.4
2015	150	3,725	782	1,639	841	7.8	7.2
2016	150	3,875	771	1,653	930	7.9	6.9
2017	150	4,025	761	1,670	1,011	8.0	7.1
2018	150	4,175	760	1,645	1,107	7.8	6.8
2019	75	4,250	748	1,586	1,200	7.6	6.9
2020	0	4,250	741	1,511	1,254	7.2	6.3
2021	0	4,250	733	1,462	1,268	7.0	6.4
Medium Term		4,250	730	1,280	910	6.1	6.1

- 1.4 By September 2012, the County Council will have provision in permanent accommodation in the three Cambourne primary schools to admit 180 children of Reception age (6 forms of entry (FE)).

The schools are:

- Monkfield Park Community Primary school
- The Vine Inter Church Aided Primary School

- Jeavons Wood Primary School

However, the demographic forecasts produced by the Research and Performance Team anticipate a requirement to provide 8.3FE of Reception places (250 places) in September 2012. Therefore, there is a potential forecast shortfall of 2.3FE of Reception places (70 places) and a need to provide additional places.

Beyond this date, Reception numbers are forecast to start to decline, reducing to 6.4FE (192 places) by the end of the decade. Overall primary numbers peak slightly later in 2017 at 8FE but then follow a similar profile of reduced demand for places in the medium term, falling back to 7FE by the end of the decade. This demographic profile with a sharp peak and subsequent fall in numbers means the Council has not committed itself, at this stage, to a permanent fourth primary school. It is, therefore, proposing that an existing school should expand to provide the additional primary school capacity needed in Cambourne. Alongside this, the need for a permanent fourth school will be kept under regular review.

2 PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO HARDWICK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 2.1 The additional places required in Cambourne will be achieved through the expansion of Hardwick Community Primary School. The proposed expansion will add a second campus to the school to be based in Cambourne.
- 2.2 The site of the second campus is the proposed Parish burial ground in Eastgate, Cambourne which is currently being used by Jeavons Wood Primary School. The Council has secured the continued use of this site and its buildings as a school until the end of the 2015/16 academic year.
- 2.3 Jeavons Wood Primary is operating from a high quality temporary school facility known as “The Blue School”. The accommodation comprises 8 classrooms, a hall/dining area and staff and administrative accommodation. The school will vacate these buildings in August 2012 when its permanent buildings and site will be available for occupation.
- 2.4 The catchment area of Hardwick Community Primary School will expand to encompass the catchment area currently shared and served by Jeavons Wood and The Vine Inter Church Primary schools.
- 2.5 The current admission number for Hardwick Community Primary School is 45. The proposed admission number, following the addition of the second campus in Cambourne, will be 105. The total capacity of the school across its two sites will increase from 315 places to 735 places.
- 2.6 In July 2011, a joint letter from the three Cambourne primary schools and Hardwick Community Primary School was sent to all parents and carers of children attending these schools outlining the proposal and explaining why it had the support of all four schools. The joint letter is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7 In addition, Hardwick Community Primary School sent a separate letter to its parents and carers also in July this year. The letter is attached as **Appendix 2**

and explains the positive case for the additional provision in Cambourne being run by Hardwick Community Primary School. This includes the leadership capacity within the school as it has a co-headship.

- 2.8 A statutory notice, attached as **Appendix 3**, was published in the local press on 3 November outlining this proposal. All interested parties/consultees had 4 weeks from the date of publication to respond to this proposal. On expiry of the public notice on 1 December, the Authority will respond, where required, to any representations received by the deadline for receipt of comments.

3 RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THE PUBLISHED PROPOSALS

- 3.1 At the time of writing two responses to the published proposals had been received, one from the local County Councillor for the Bourn electoral division, Councillor Lister Wilson and one from Councillor Fiona Whelan the Local Member for the Hardwick electoral division. Any further responses received between 28 November and the expiry date for the public notice on 1 December will be reported to Cabinet in an addendum to this report.
- 3.2 Councillor Wilson considers that the additional provision in Cambourne should be managed by the Jeavons Wood Primary School as its new site is in close proximity (across the road) to the site of the temporary or “blue school” buildings in Eastgate, Cambourne. There will be 4 miles between Hardwick Community Primary School and its second campus in Cambourne. However, recognising both the urgent need for additional school places and the views of the local primary schools, including the governing body of Jeavons Wood Primary School, he has advised that the Council should proceed with the statutory notice for the expansion of Hardwick Community Primary School.
- 3.3 Councillor Whelan has written in indicating that both herself and Hardwick Parish Council support the proposal.

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 proposal is aimed at meeting a basic need for school places.

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 Council has worked in partnership with the three Cambourne Primary Schools and Hardwick Community Primary School to conclude a proposal that has the support of all these schools. Two of the schools are community primary schools, one is a trust school, whilst the fourth is a voluntary aided

inter church primary school, reflecting the Council's new role as a commissioner that must work in partnership with a range of education providers to secure the school places it has a statutory duty to provide.

- 4.4.2 Council officers have also worked in partnership with Cambourne Parish Council to ensure continued access to and use of the land owned by the Parish for delivery of primary education provision up to 2015/16.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource and Performance Implications

- 5.1.1 The proposal to continue the use of the temporary school accommodation at the site of the proposed Parish burial ground, secured until the summer of 2016:
- Makes continued use of a purpose-built facility in which the County Council has already invested £2m
 - Does not require immediate further investment in permanent or temporary solutions (mobiles) elsewhere
 - Defers expenditure of £1m for the removal of the temporary buildings and making good the Parish burial ground site
 - Provides additional time to identify the preferred approach for providing the required number of primary school places in Cambourne beyond 2016. Provision has been made in the new CYPS capital programme for the permanent accommodation for a potential fourth primary school. The capital programme will be considered and approved by full Council in February 2012.
- 5.1.2 The Council has agreed an annual rental with Cambourne Parish Council having agreed an extension to the lease for the burial ground site.

5.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 A statutory notice to make the prescribed alteration to the admission number of Hardwick Community Primary School was published in the appropriate local newspaper, the Cambridge News, on 3 November 2011 (**see Appendix 3**). The statutory notice period expired on 1 December 2011. The one comment received is covered in section 3 of this report.

5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.3.1 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.

5.4 Engagement and Consultation

- 5.4.1 The Council has 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:

- Cambourne Parish Council and Hardwick Parish Council
- Member of Parliament
- Local County Councillors and South Cambridgeshire District Councillors
- 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)

Source Documents	Location
<p>Prescribed Alteration documents</p> <p>Briefing Note to Hardwick Primary School Governing Body Meeting on 4. 7.11</p> <p>Joint Schools Letter to parents – July 2011</p> <p>Letter form Hardwick Primary School to parents – July 2011</p>	<p>Children And Young People's Services</p> <p>Strategy and Commissioning: Infrastructure</p> <p>Box No: CC1209</p> <p>2nd Floor B Wing</p> <p>Castle Court</p> <p>Castle Hill</p> <p>Cambridge CB3 0AP</p>

Appendix 1



Additional primary school provision within Cambourne from September 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very pleased to inform you that, following lengthy consultation between the Local Education Authority, the three existing primary schools in Cambourne and Hardwick Primary School, we have a proposed solution for the provision of primary school places in Cambourne from September 2012. This is a solution that all parties fully support as the best possible solution for all pupils in Cambourne and indeed Hardwick.

As you will all be only too aware, there has been for some time now an issue regarding a lack of primary school places in Cambourne. The two permanent schools, Monkfield Park and The Vine, will be at capacity from September 2011, and the third school, Jeavons Wood, will be expanding on its temporary site with approximately 210 pupils in September 2011. Due to the high level of demand for school places in Cambourne over the past 4 years Hardwick Community Primary School has also been accepting Cambourne children. From September 2011 over 70 Cambourne children, across all year groups, will go to school at the Hardwick site. Many of these children will continue to travel by bus from Cambourne to and from Hardwick. The provision offered by Hardwick has been a very successful arrangement that has been supported by all the schools in Cambourne in order to provide the best possible education for all Cambourne children, no matter which school they attend. By allocating places across the four schools we have ensured that no school has become overcrowded, and that children on all four sites have had the best possible educational experience. Although this has not been an ideal solution, it has been by far the best available. Cambourne children have settled very well into Hardwick and most have stayed even when places have become available in Cambourne schools.

In September 2012 Jeavons Wood Primary School will move from its current temporary building into the permanent site in Cambourne and is expected to quickly fill its planned 420 places. However, it is predicted that there will be the need for up to two further Foundation Stage classes for Cambourne children in September 2012. There is no funding available to build a fourth permanent primary school and indeed the demographer's figures suggest that this is not needed as the primary school population in Cambourne will rise and then fall again within the next decade. The option of finding a new provider to manage this additional provision is deemed unachievable by the local authority. The three existing Cambourne schools have clearly stated that they don't wish to run this additional facility themselves. It is therefore the Local Education Authority's proposal that the leadership and teaching of the additional provision will be undertaken by Hardwick Community Primary School on the existing 'Blue School' site.

This proposal is made after consideration of a number of factors. Firstly, Hardwick operates a Co-headship with two full time headteachers and thus has the leadership capacity to support this development. Secondly, KS1 pupils who live in Cambourne but currently attend Hardwick will be able to move to a more local setting whilst keeping continuity in their education. Thirdly, Hardwick has the capacity in terms of teachers to teach across the two sites without needing to recruit. In addition, Hardwick's creative curriculum and policy framework will be well suited to the facilities offered by the temporary school building and will be ready to run from day one. Finally, during the last four years, Hardwick teachers have established great working relationships with a large number of Cambourne children and their families and genuinely care about their welfare and education.

The Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of Hardwick, Jeavons Wood, Monkfield Park and The Vine along with members of the Local Authority have worked together to ensure that effective education is provided for all children in Cambourne. We believe that Hardwick managing the additional provision will provide a long term solution to the admissions issues experienced in previous years, provide a local school place for pupils who live in Cambourne and is the best possible solution for the Cambourne community.

If you have any questions about how this arrangement will affect you, or would like to discuss the matter with any of us, then please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Porter	Debbie Higham	Sarah Humphreys	Andy Matthews & Ruth French
(Head at Monkfield Park)	(Head at The Vine)	(Head at Jeavon's Wood)	(Co-heads at Hardwick)

Appendix 2



Hardwick Community Primary School
Limes Road
Hardwick,
Cambridge CB23 7RE

Telephone: 01954 210070
Fax: 01954 210095
e-mail:
office@hardwick.cambs.sch.uk

Head Teachers: Mrs Ruth French
& Mr Andrew
Matthews

Wednesday 6th July

Hardwick Community Primary School and Cambourne An exciting new chapter ahead!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you all know, for a number of years now we have been offering school provision to many children from Cambourne. Many of these children have not been able to find a school place in Cambourne itself, but we do also have a number of families who choose to send their children here instead. These additional pupils have brought extra funding and resources to the school and all pupils have benefitted as a result. You only have to admire the fabulous setting of our pre-school, our developed outdoor spaces, allotment and reception outdoor areas, and the huge range of activities we provide for our pupils to see the positive impact of having a larger intake.

Next year we will be expanding still further as again there are a surplus of Reception-aged children in Cambourne. The additional funding we are receiving due to this means we are able to provide small classes for our pupils and continue to have very high pupil:adult ratios (classes next year will be between 21 and 26 pupils). We are delighted to welcome our pupils and families from Cambourne and know many Hardwick children have made firm friendships with them and this has only cemented the positive relationships we have with our more extended community. Our Cambourne intake is now a quarter of our school population and many of these families are firmly embedded in the culture and life of our school.

From September 2012 there will be a need for even more places for Reception pupils in Cambourne. Jeavons Wood will be moving into its new building and will quickly be at capacity, and Monkfield Park and The Vine School are also full. Planning permission for the "Blue School" that currently houses Jeavons Wood has been extended, and the County Council wish an existing school to run this site as additional provision. At present there are no plans to build a permanent

fourth school in Cambourne, however future population growth may well mean this takes place. None of the existing Cambourne schools feel they have the capacity to take on this additional provision. However, we do! On Monday evening our Governing Body voted unanimously to accept the County's proposal that we would run this site. Hardwick Community School would still serve the population of Hardwick, but we will also now have the facility to teach our KS1 Cambourne children in Cambourne in the purpose-built 'Blue School'. There are many reasons why we are all very eager to pursue this exciting new challenge.

- If we had not been admitting Cambourne children over the last few years Hardwick would have had significantly decreased funding, our pupil numbers would also have dropped leading to larger class sizes (we estimate around 34) possibly spread over three year groups. This is due to the fact that we would have had no choice but to make several teachers and support staff redundant. We can now look ahead and not only retain existing staff, but also continue to have high adult:pupil ratios and attract high-calibre candidates for future positions.
- We have the capacity to run a split site, as we, unlike most schools, have two headteachers! We as heads will still operate in the same way we do now, we will share the headship of both sites, get to know all the parents and children and seek every way we can to be available to everyone. We may have to reduce our class teaching role in the short term, but teaching continues to remain a priority for both of us.
- We have many talented staff, and our leadership structures over the last few years have given many teachers and support staff new opportunities to develop their skills. We can now retain these valuable staff and their skills by creating promoted posts within the school over the two sites. All our staff are very positive about the opportunities this venture offers.
- The additional funding we will receive to work over two sites will be used to benefit all our children, not only the pupils from Cambourne in the Blue School. It will mean we can continue to provide the small classes mentioned earlier, deliver the best-resourced curriculum possible and provide additional funding during a time of financial constraint.
- Hardwick children will continue to be guaranteed a place at Hardwick School – in Hardwick. Finally however, we can offer a local solution to our Cambourne families, they can go to "Hardwick" and reap all the benefits of our ethos, curriculum and opportunities for their children, but can do so in their own locality. Cambourne pupils who are already established here will continue their education here, and the free transport they receive will also continue. The places in the Blue school site will be for Reception and Y1 only from 2012 and it will gradually grow upwards from there for as long as the additional provision is required in Cambourne.
- We already have excellent relationships with the headteachers of all three other schools in Cambourne, and they are fully in support of this proposal. We can now work even more closely together to support all the children in our shared community. A letter has been sent from all of us to Cambourne parents today explaining the situation.

We are aware that this is only a brief explanation, summarising many weeks of negotiations and may well raise a number of questions. We will give a much more comprehensive presentation to you all at the start of next term, and can go into more details then about why the Governors, ourselves and our staff view this as an opportunity not to be missed to the benefit of every family and child in both communities.

As a stepping stone towards this happening, Hardwick needs to have additional classroom space next year, primarily to accommodate our small class sizes. This has led to our application for temporary planning permission for a mobile classroom sited on an area of unused bushes well within the school boundary. This planning decision will be taken in late July by the county council and we are working closely with all concerned to ensure that the correct decision is made in the interests of all community stakeholders.

We are sure that you can all see how beneficial this will be to the provision available at Hardwick School. If you are interested in discussing any matter relating to this with us, you know you can come and speak to us at any time.

Andy Matthews and Ruth French

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Council Statutory Notice for the Expansion of Hardwick 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 Hardwick Community Primary School, Limes Road, Hardwick, CB23 7RE from 01 September 2012.

The expansion will add a second campus to Hardwick Community Primary School to be based in Cambourne. The site of the second campus is the temporary or “blue” school buildings in Eastgate, Cambourne, CB23 6DZ. The accommodation comprises 8 classrooms, a hall/dining area and staff and administrative accommodation. These buildings are currently occupied by the Jeavons Wood Primary school which will vacate these buildings in August 2012 when its permanent buildings and site will be available for occupation.

The catchment area of Hardwick Community Primary School will expand to encompass the catchment areas currently served by Jeavons Wood and The Vine Inter Church Primary Schools in Cambourne.

The current capacity of the Hardwick Community Primary School on its present (or only) site in Limes Road, Hardwick is 315. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 240. The current admission number for the school is 45. The proposed admission number, following the addition of the second campus in Cambourne, will be 105. The total capacity of the school across its two sites will be raised to 735 places.

The second campus of Hardwick Community Primary School, located in Cambourne, will provide 60 of the 105 Reception places with effect from 01 September 2012.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Ian Trafford (contact details 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 Ian Trafford, Education Officer, Policy, Planning and Review, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box CC1209, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.
E-mail: ian.trafford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 699803.

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

Publication Date: 3rd November 2011

Explanatory Note

The implementation of this notice is dependent upon the buildings at Eastgate, Cambourne CB23 7RE being available following the planned transfer of the Jeavons Wood Primary School to its new site and buildings in August 2012